

Golan Druze stone Israeli police

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Hundreds of Druze Arabs threw stones at Israeli police and border police in the occupied Golan Heights town of Majdal Shams Saturday. Israeli Radio said, Army radio said the stone-throwing began after police and border police fired tear-gas in an effort to disperse hundreds of Druze, who had gathered to demonstrate in solidarity with Syria on that country's Independence Day. An Israeli Radio reporter in Majdal Shams said it was as if it were "raining stones." Ten policemen were injured, most of them lightly, Israeli Radio said. Several Druze were also injured in clashes with police, and four were arrested, the radio said. Israeli Radio said several hundred Syrian Druze gathered on hills across the border with Syria, singing and shouting through loudspeakers. Israel occupied the Golan Heights from Syria in the 1967 war. In 1981 Israel passed a law extending Israeli law to the area, in effect "annexing" it. In contrast to the tough handling of stone-throwers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, police in the Golan were ordered to refrain from firing even rubber bullets at the protesters, and used only teargas, Israeli Radio reported. The Golan is home to 18,000 Druze Arabs, most with Syrian citizenship, and about 11,000 Israeli settlers living in 32 farms and villages.

Jordan Times

An independent Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز

Russian hardliners hope to help Iraq

BAGHDAD (R) — Opposition hardliners from Russia's parliament wrapped up a seven-day visit to Baghdad Saturday with a pledge to assist Iraq in its battle against U.N. trade sanctions. "We shall strive to remove the embargo against Iraq," Elya Konstantinov, leader of the National Salvation Front delegation, told reporters. "We shall strive, when back home to change the stand of Russia towards Iraq... and to help Iraq in the United Nations." Mr. Konstantinov said through an Iraqi interpreter. The front is an alliance of former communists, militant nationalists and military and police officers. President Boris Yeltsin's attempt to ban the group was blocked by the Russian court. The seven front members of parliament got a red-carpet welcome in Iraq. They met Parliament Speaker Saadi Mehdi Saleh and Foreign Minister Mohammad Saeed Al Sahaf during their stay and one member, General Anatoli Kalitov, met Defence Minister Ali Hassan Al Majeed. "General Kalitov expressed his admiration for the steadfastness and courage of the Iraqi people... in the face of colonial American hegemony," the Defence Ministry newspaper Al Qadisiyah reported Saturday.

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Happy Easter

The Jordan Times will not be published on Monday, April 19, due to the Easter Sunday holiday. The next issue of the newspaper will appear on Tuesday, April 20. The Jordan Times wishes its readers and advertisers a happy Easter.

Chechen president imposes own rule

MOSCOW (AFP) — Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev Saturday dissolved parliament and the government in the separatist Russian republic and imposed presidential rule, the Interfax news agency reported. Mr. Dudayev also announced a curfew in the capital Grozny. Chechen Deputy Foreign Minister Said Geliskhanov told Interfax that the president declared himself independent of Russia a year and a half ago, a move which Moscow has never recognised.

5 held in Yemeni arson case

ADEN (R) — Yemen has arrested five people accused of setting fire to a video store last week, security sources said Saturday. The sources did not disclose the identity of the suspects who were arrested in Ibban province, 70 kilometres east of Aden, but residents said they were Muslim militants. Owners of similar video stores believe that incident was the first of its kind in the country. Muslim militants active in other parts of the Arab World have attacked video stores which they see as against Islam. The owner of the damaged shop, Ahmad Muhammad Sarwah, told police he received a letter a week ago from an anonymous person warning him to close the store or face dire consequences.

No proof of Pakistan's 'direct involvement' in Bombay blasts

NEW DELHI (AP) — India has no proof of Pakistan's "direct involvement" in the string of blasts which killed about 300 people in Bombay last month, Foreign Minister Dinesh Singh said Saturday. Indian investigating agencies have "so far not provided any concrete proof of direct involvement of Pakistan," the Press Trust of India (PTI) quoted Mr. Singh as saying in the northern city of Lucknow. But there was no doubt that Islamabad was "aiding and abetting terrorism" in the Indian states of Punjab and Kashmir, where Sikh and Muslim militants are fighting for secession, he told a news conference.

Iraq reinstates claim to Kuwait — paper

BAGHDAD (R) — An Iraqi newspaper reasserted Iraq's claim Saturday to Kuwait and said Baghdad some day would again "liberate" what it considers its 19th province. Babel newspaper, published by President Saddam Hussein's son Uday, took the occasion of the anniversary of Iraq recapturing the southern Fao peninsula from Iran on April 17, 1988, after an eight-year war to draw the parallel with Kuwait. "Fao — Kuwait — constant liberation, God willing," Babel trumpeted in a banner headline. Iraqi troops occupied Kuwait in August 1990 but a U.S.-led multinational force drove them out about seven months later. Iraq's official press refers to Kuwait as a "region" and Babel still describes it as Iraq's 19th province.

Arabs defer decision on peace talks until Monday

U.S. said suggesting 5-day delay in bilaterals

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Arab parties to the Middle East peace talks Saturday put off a decision on whether to resume negotiations with Israel.

They decided to meet again here Monday after an Arab League meeting Sunday in Cairo. "We are leaving now for Cairo to attend the Arab League's ministerial meeting and will return Monday to Damascus for a closing session at which we will take the proper decision regarding the peace process and obstacles facing it," Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa told reporters.

The Arab League meeting focusing on the Arab-Israeli conflict as well as the crisis between Libya and the West will group 19 of the pan-Arab body's 21 foreign affairs chiefs.

A Lebanese delegate said earlier that if the parties here were unable to adopt a common stand, they would continue their discussions in Cairo.

Mr. Sharaa, Lebanese Foreign Minister Fares Bouez, Jordan's Kamel Abu Jaber as well as the political department chief of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Farouk Kaddoumi, were to have ended their meeting in Damascus Saturday and decide whether to attend the ninth ses-

sion of bilateral Arab-Israeli talks scheduled to open Tuesday in Washington.

Their talks, also attended by Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa, were suspended briefly Saturday after an inconclusive four-hour session.

Mr. Sharaa did not specify how long the next round of talks here would last. But a delegate here said the Arabs would probably insist that the peace talks be postponed until April 26.

During that time, the United States, which is co-sponsoring the peace process with Russia, will be asked to publish a statement responding to a request for clarifications by the Arabs before the Washington negotiations can resume, the delegate said.

Mr. Sharaa said he spoke by telephone Saturday morning with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to "review international efforts aimed at eliminating obstacles hampering the peace process."

Mr. Sharaa said he had briefed his Arab colleagues on the conversation with Mr. Christopher, which he described as "important," adding that it would "help formulate a common Arab stand."

The U.S. ambassador to Syria, Christopher Ross, was sighted in the lobby of Damascus' Sheraton Hotel where the Arabs' meeting was being held.

The Palestinians have urged the Arabs to postpone a return to the peace talks until early May to allow Washington to reconsider their demands for Israel to reopen the occupied territories and settle the expellee crisis, a Palestinian source said Saturday.

The West Bank and Gaza Strip were closed at the end of March amid unprecedented violence.

Palestinian sources here said Washington rejected both conditions for resuming the talks, which were derailed by Israel's expulsion of 415 Palestinians to South Lebanon on December 17.

Mr. Musa has urged the Palestinians to resume the talks, stressing that Israel would make concessions once they agree to return to the negotiating table, sources at the meeting said.

Syria's official daily Tishrin slammed what it called "Israeli stubbornness and obstacles that the Jewish state continues to place" before the peace process.

It called on the United States Peace process at historic point, page 2

Exiles say delay not enough, demand pullout from talks

MARI AL ZOHOUR, Lebanon (R) — Palestinian expellees said Saturday a demand by Palestinian negotiators to postpone talks with Israel was too little and they must permanently quit the peace process.

"The demand of the Palestinian negotiating team is not enough," said Abdul Aziz Al Rantisi, leader of the 396 Palestinian expellees who began a fifth month in exile on Saturday.

"The delegation must now announce a complete withdrawal from the negotiations... especially as they (talks) will achieve nothing for the Palestinian people and will be in Israel's interest," he told Reuters at the exiles' tent camp.

Palestinian negotiators told Arab foreign ministers meeting in Damascus that they wanted a delay in the talks, due to resume Tuesday, as Israel and the United States failed to meet even minimum demands.

Dr. Rantisi said the men had no demands from Arab governments. "They know very well the firm stand of the deportees who demand the full implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 799."

Resolution 799, issued a day after the men were banished on Dec. 17, orders Israel to take them back immediately.

Dr. Rantisi said pressure from the Palestinian people in Israeli-occupied territories had forced the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the delegation to seek a delay in the talks.

The exiles, defying a barrage of warning artillery and tank fire, marched on Israeli lines south of their camp on Friday in a bid to block the resumption of the peace talks.

The march halted short of an Israeli roadblock after a 34-year-old expellee was lightly injured by debris thrown up by an Israeli tank shell hitting rocks 30 metres away from the men.

Dr. Rantisi, 45, said the "death march" had achieved its goals and warned that similar steps could be taken in the future.

The Palestinian negotiators, under pressure from a public turning increasingly against peace efforts, want an early target date for the exiles' return and an agreement to allow back a sizeable number of others expelled since 1967.

They insist on an improved offer of self-rule and an easing of Israeli occupation measures.

ANKARA (Agencies) — Turkey's eighth president, Turgut Ozal, died Saturday of a heart attack after suffering a sudden drop in blood pressure and being rushed to hospital.

The 66-year-old head of state had a history of heart trouble having undergone a coronary bypass operation in 1987.

He had returned to Ankara Thursday after an 11-day tour of the Caucasus and Central Asia, in which he travelled 12,000 kilometres.

Often criticised for interfering in government, Mr. Ozal had an uneasy relationship with a right-left coalition government headed by his arch rivals, Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel.

Mr. Ozal had been Mr. Demirel's right hand on economic affairs prior to the military coup of 1980 which overthrew the Demirel government and was vice-premier under the military.

As president, Mr. Ozal was accused of making decisions on issues that were beyond his powers, including declaring Turkey's support for the Western-led alliance against Iraq in the Gulf without consulting parliament.

Nicknamed "Uncle," Mr. Ozal was a supporter of "harmonious marriage" between traditions and modern technology.

Born on October 13, 1927, in the eastern region of Malatya, he was an electrical engineer by pro-

'Rabin ready to offer some legislative authority to Palestinians'

TEL AVIV (AP) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is willing to offer Palestinians legislative powers in exchange for some flexibility on their part in the Middle East peace talks, Israeli army radio reported.

Officials in Mr. Rabin's office refused to comment on what appeared to be a significant policy shift, aimed at luring Palestinians back to the negotiations table.

Israel once objected to giving any lawmaking authorities to the Palestinians, arguing it would mean agreeing to their demand for independent statehood.

The radio said Mr. Rabin had instructed Israel's negotiators headed by Cabinet Secretary Eliakim Rubinstein to make substantive offer at the peace talks when talks resume.

The issues on which Mr. Rabin urged flexibility include control over water resources, land and legislative powers, army radio said.

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The helicopter went down and crashed into a mountain.

15 killed in crash

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"One rocket exploded in front of the entrance to the emergency ward, two on the roof of the administrative building and another just 20 metres distant," fumed Doctor Armin Kobel, head of the Kabul Red Cross delegation.

Most of the casualties were relatives of hospital patients, he said.

Dr. Kobel, who said the rockets were fired late Friday, believed the former Red Cross-run hospital had been deliberately targeted.

"There are no military objectives near this hospital, so why was it hit?" he demanded.

Dr. Kobel repeated the doctrine of neutrality that all warring factions must respect concerning hospital facilities.

"We ask once again all parties to respect all hospitals in Kabul. They are not military targets," Kobel said.

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The state news

Peace process at historic point — experts

By Norma Holmes
USIA Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — The new U.S. administration is in a very strong position to help bring about peace in the Middle East, according to three experts on that region. And the more active U.S. role in peace talks resuming here April 20, they say, may be crucial to that outcome.

"President Clinton has inherited the strongest hand any American president has inherited in recent times. We have never been in a better position than we are today to bring about a solution to the conflict," says former Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy. "What is urgently needed in the process now is some success for all of the delegates to deflate the naysayers."

Mr. Murphy, a senior fellow for the Middle East at the non-partisan Council on Foreign Relations, moderated an April 16 briefing on the peace process at the National Press Club. He was joined by Judith Kipper, senior programme associate for the Middle East Forum; Raghida Dergham, senior diplomatic correspondent for the Arabic daily Al Hayat; and Ori Nir, Washington bureau chief for the Israeli daily paper Haaretz.

Mr. Murphy, in assessing how the Clinton administration is likely to handle the upcoming round of talks, said President Clinton and Secretary Warren Christopher "have talked of playing a

full partnership role, but I don't think you're going to see that in reality until negotiations are seriously engaged. I think the United States... is being careful until it sees the directions they are ready to move in."

Ms. Kipper said she agreed with Mr. Murphy that President Clinton "has been handed a good hand," but pointed out that if the participants are not seriously intent upon moving the process forward, "much more serious situations" are demanding U.S. time and global concern and "the U.S. could lose interest."

"I think there is a lot of hopefulness, but we shouldn't confuse the negotiation process with the larger crucial and historic issues that are taking place in the region," Ms. Kipper warned.

She said the geopolitical race in the Middle East, where "60-70 per cent of the people are under the age of 20, is between democratisation and extremism," despite the innumerable volatile and sensitive issues and problems confronting parties to the peace process.

"Ultimately, the greatest threat in the region today is the lack of democratisation in regimes that do not represent their people," Ms. Kipper underscored.

While direct talks "are a nice idea," Ms. Kipper said, "...it is unlikely that present talks will be successful without the direct, hands-on mediation of the United States."

On a more positive note, she added, "I do believe that this Arab-Israeli peace process is going to succeed, despite the negatives, despite the machinations of the parties, the zigzags and the rather peculiar role of the United States."

She said "one of the sea changes" in recent weeks is that the Israelis "are convinced that Syria is prepared to go to peace with Israel. ... They have assessed the changes in Syria as being deadly serious. Something has changed in Syria."

"I believe the Syrians will continue to return to the talks until hell freezes over and that Syrian President Hafez Al Assad will stay with those talks until they produce an agreement," she said.

Ms. Kipper said evidence of change is reflected in less harsh rhetoric in Syrian newspapers, more tourism, "and a number of other things that bodes very, very well for an ongoing, solid position by the Syrians."

Mr. Nir also noted that "new trust and confidence based on the change in the American role" might prove to be the most important element in the process. However, "negative" or tragic they first appeared to be, he said, recent major developments in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict have had a positive effect on the peace talks.

He said the "violence on the ground" between Palestinians and Israelis intensified particularly in March, and for the first time,

violent incidents occurred inside of Israel. Those events led to the deportation of Palestinians, he said, and if it had not been for the deportations, Mr. Christopher would not have gone to the region and announced such a sweeping change in the American role.

Mr. Nir said the Christopher trip produced an marked improvement in American-Israeli relations and built a relationship of trust between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Mr. Christopher.

The increase in violence inside Israel also created public pressure for a physical separation between the territories and Israel, and the closure of the territories has sharply reduced the number of terrorist attacks inside the green line, Mr. Nir said.

Mr. Nir said that Mr. Rabin seems to recognise now more than in the past the urgency that is needed for progress in negotiations. Until a month ago, Mr. Nir said, Rabin was convinced that progress and focus on the Syrian track was more worthwhile than on the Palestinian track. "Public attitude now conveys a certain feeling of being fed up with holding on to the territories."

Another internal development, the election of Likud opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu, "poses a serious political threat to Rabin," and those who support the peace process and the concept of territory for peace recognise the need for a settlement, Mr. Nir said.

Kuwait emir's cousin named in fraud case

LONDON (AP) — Kuwait's external investment office said Friday it has gone to court to recover more than \$300 million from alleged frauds that cost the oil-rich emirate billions.

One of the 22 defendants in a civil lawsuit is Sheikh Fahad Al Sabah, a cousin of Kuwait's emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah.

Fahad Al Sabah, formerly chairman of the Kuwait Investment Office, is said in court papers to have moved to the Bahamas.

Seven of the defendants, including Fahad Al Sabah, had been charged in a criminal lawsuit brought by the Kuwait Investment Office in Spain. The case was thrown out by a Spanish judge who cited a lack of evidence.

The Kuwaitis have filed an appeal seeking to reinstate the criminal case, and a civil case in Spain is pending.

The Kuwait Investment Office in London Friday issued a sketchy two-page statement through an outside public relations agency, but declined to elaborate on the new case, filed late Thursday in the high court.

A trial could conceivably shed some light on the previously secretive management of Kuwait's vast oil wealth.

The Kuwait Investment Office claims that up to \$5 billion was lost over several years as it was misappropriated in a variety of fraudulent deals.

The case in London involved only part of the missing money, apparently from several incidents that had ties to the United Kingdom. The money was lost by Grupo Torras, the Kuwait Investment Office's Spanish business that is now in receivership, and Torras Hostench London, a subsidiary.

Hizbollah and Amal mortar kills Israeli-allied militiaman

MARIYOUN, Lebanon (Agencies) — Guerrillas mortared Israel's self-styled "security zone" in South Lebanon Saturday. Security sources said one member of an Israeli-backed militia was killed and another wounded.

The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said several mortar rounds exploded around Shoumariyeh, a hilltop position manned by Israeli troops and militiamen of the South Lebanon Army (SLA) on the edge of the zone's central sector.

The attack was launched as the foreign ministers of Syria, Jordan and Lebanon and senior officials of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) were meeting in Damascus for the second day to decide whether they would attend the ninth round of Middle East peace negotiations in Washington Tuesday.

The fundamentalist Iranian-backed Shiite Hizbollah and the Amal Movement, a Syrian-backed Shiite faction, said they carried out the mortar assault.

They claimed in a joint communiqué that one Israeli Merkava tank was destroyed. They made no mention of guerrilla casualties and there was no immediate word from Israel's military command on the clash.

Hizbollah and Amal differ on political issues, but sometimes launch joint attacks to underscore their determination to drive the Israelis out of the occupied border zone, which is predominantly Shiite.

The Israelis and the SLA retaliated for the attack with a barrage of howitzer fire on the villages of Zawtar and Qaqaqiyat Al Jisr along the Litani River.

Saturday's fighting came a day after Israeli helicopter gunships attacked the motorcade of a senior official of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), killing three people and wounding four.

Saturday's clash raised the casualty toll in the south this year to 19 killed and 87 wounded.

South Lebanon, a traditional flashpoint in the Arab-Israeli conflict, has been wracked by violence for five weeks amid moves by the United States and Russia to resume the stalled peace talks.

Hizbollah, which like Iran opposes the talks, invariably steps up its attacks in South Lebanon before and during each round of peace negotiations.

Israel has said it will attend the new round of talks Tuesday.

Samir Sweidan, 42, a Lebanese military official of the PFLP was seriously wounded in Friday's helicopter attack.

An Israeli missile slammed into Mr. Sweidan's beige Mercedes, shredding it to pieces and setting it on fire. Mr. Sweidan managed to jump out but his wife and daughter were burned alive.

A civilian was also killed and three others wounded when their house was hit by another missile which also targeted Mr. Sweidan, the source said.

Mr. Sweidan was rushed in critical condition to the Sidon hospital in South Lebanon while the bodies of his wife and child were taken to a Tyre hospital.

Earlier, Lebanese police said the first missile had killed all the car's passengers.

The source equated the Israeli attack with one which killed Hizbollah chief Abbas Mussawi in February 1992 when Israeli helicopters pined down his convoy.

Israel last raided South Lebanon on Tuesday when its helicopters carried out a series of attacks against Hizbollah strongholds in the region after three parachutists were killed and two wounded in a bomb attack.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Boy killed, girl injured from U.S. bomb

NICOSIA (AP) — An eight-year-old Iraqi boy was killed and his sister was seriously injured Friday when a cluster bomb detonated in northern Iraq, the Iraqi News Agency reported. The agency said the bomb apparently was among those dropped on April 9 by U.S. fighter jets. There was no way to independently confirm the report. U.S. jets dropped four cluster bombs near the Saddam Dam in Iraq's northern Nineveh province after Iraqi anti-aircraft batteries tracked the jets with radar and fired, according to the U.S. European command in Stuttgart, Germany. The jets were patrolling the "no-fly" zone imposed by the United States, France and Britain over northern Iraq. Iraq said a soldier guarding the dam was injured by one of the bombs. The Iraqi News Agency said the "unexploded cluster bomb" went off "near a dam in Nineveh governorate." "The bombs had been dropped at Saddam Dam by U.S. planes last week," the agency said. It added that "at the time of the explosion, the area was packed with families enjoying the spring greenery."

IRNA warns of consequences of Major-Rushdie talks

LONDON (R) — Britain's trade relations with Islamic nations could be hit if Prime Minister John Major meets author Salman Rushdie as planned, the Iranian news agency (IRNA) warned Friday. Mr. Major's office confirmed earlier this week that the conservative prime minister planned to meet the British author of "The Satanic Verses" who is under sentence of death by Iran for alleged blasphemy. In a report from London, IRNA said the prospects for a planned visit to Iran on May 6 by a London Chamber of Commerce delegation were "not optimistic." It quoted a spokeswoman for the Chamber of Commerce as saying that indications from the British embassy in Tehran were that visas would not be granted. "According to the daily Salaam newspaper, quoting Iranian officials, visa applications for the mission were also said to have been rejected," the agency said. It gave warning that a meeting between Mr. Major and Mr. Rushdie would have further consequences. "Many fear the situation could prove to be even more self-defeating and could rebound on trade with other Muslim countries," the agency declared. "Much now may be fruitless unless he (Major) follows the advice of some of his colleagues and does not allow himself to be dragged more deeply into the Rushdie affair and regret it later," IRNA said.

CIA chief reportedly visited Egypt

WASHINGTON (AP) — Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director R. James Woolsey paid a secret visit to Egypt this week, meeting with President Hosni Mubarak to discuss the extent of Iranian support for militant Islam in the region, official sources said Friday. Mr. Woolsey, who assumed office in February, was on an orientation tour of several Middle Eastern and European countries, including Israel and Italy, said one source who spoke only on condition of anonymity. The CIA routinely declines to discuss the director's travels for reasons of security. An official familiar with his tour said Mr. Woolsey was particularly interested in hearing Egyptian officials' assessment of the extent to which radical Islamic forces are gaining influence around the Middle East with the military and financial support of Iran. Egypt has accused Iran of training and arming Islamic radicals seeking to overthrow the Egyptian government through a terror campaign against officials and tourists. Mr. Mubarak briefed President Bill Clinton on the subject when he visited Washington last week in a high-profile visit designed to underscore U.S. support for the embattled leader. The United States is also concerned about growing tensions between Iran and Egypt, which last month threatened to launch a military strike if the Iranians base warships in neighbouring Sudan. Egypt has told the United States it has information that Iran plans to base warships in Port Sudan on the strategically located Red Sea.

Officials said Sudan has a fundamentalist Muslim government that has for the past year allied itself increasingly with the clerics ruling Iran. Egypt has also told the United States that Iranian Revolutionary guards are training Muslim fundamentalists in Sudan for attacks in Egypt, the officials said. Iran has denied all the Egyptian charges.

Oman to hold first population census

DUBAI (R) — Oman will hold its first national census in December to establish accurate figures on its fast-growing population and help long-term development planning, a central bank publication said. Al Markazi magazine said previous studies estimated Oman's population at around two million. Improved medical care, lower infant mortality and higher living standards had all contributed to an estimated annual growth of 3.5 per cent, it said, predicting that the 1993 census would come up with a higher figure. Revenue from Oman's oil production, currently around 750,000 barrels a day, has brought rapid development in the last 20 years to the previously impoverished country. Half the population is now thought to be under 18. Al Markazi said the census would start on Dec. 1 and last for 10 days. Results would be published soon afterwards. "The fifth-year plan will be built on accurate population and property statistics," Al Markazi said.

Palestinian sentenced to 30 years in jail in U.S.

NEW YORK (R) — A Palestinian from the Black September organisation was sentenced Friday to 30 years in jail for three attempted car bombings against Israeli offices in New York more than 20 years ago. Khalid Mohammad Al Joffem, also known as Al Jawary, was given three consecutive terms of 10 years each after his conviction last month. He was found guilty on March 8 of planting three bombs on March 4, 1973, outside the first Israeli Bank and Trust and the Israeli Discount Bank in Manhattan and at the El Al Airline terminal at Kennedy Airport. The bombings were carried out on behalf of the Black September organisation of which Jawary was a member. His conviction came just days after the World Trade Centre bombing on Feb. 26. Once the cultural attaché of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in Cyprus, Jawary, 45, managed to delay sentencing for a day by delivering a three-hour monologue before federal Judge Jack Weinstein. Prosecutor Charles Rose said the monologue included "a history of the PLO and a lot about Yasser Arafat and the supposed conspiracy of the Israeli government against him." At a resumed hearing Friday morning, Jawary was given his sentence.

Bush ends triumphant visit to Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY (Agencies) — Former U.S. President George Bush left Kuwait late Friday after a three-day visit and a hero's welcome as the emirate's liberator from Iraqi occupation.

Mr. Bush, who was on his first visit to the emirate, was awarded the Mubarak Medal, Kuwait's highest distinction, by its ruler Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah who praised him as the key player in the liberation of Kuwait.

Prior to his departure, Mr. Bush visited U.S. troops deployed here and conducting joint manoeuvres with Kuwaiti forces. He told them his trip had been "terribly emotional and wonderfully fulfilling."

Mr. Bush, who orchestrated

the U.S.-led military coalition that ousted Iraq from Kuwait in February 1991 after seven months of occupation, was accompanied by his wife Barbara, members of his family and former Secretary of State James Baker.

The former president also received an honorary doctorate from Kuwait University and delivered a speech before the Kuwaiti parliament.

On Friday he visited southern Kuwait and inspected oil lakes created by the destruction of oil facilities.

"I have been in the oil business so I find it devastating," he said referring to the spills that marred the countryside.

"I have been welcomed in a

way I will never forget," Mr. Bush told 1,500 U.S. troops.

"Kuwaitis will be forever grateful for your services... we will always be proud of how (Operation) Desert Storm went."

Mr. Bush sent 500,000 U.S. armed forces personnel to the Gulf in 1990 and 1991 as part of a 28-nation military coalition that drove out Iraqi troops in February 1991.

Kuwait has held a series of war games with U.S. forces since signing defence pacts with the coalition leaders the United States, Britain and France in 1991.

Mr. Bush, accompanied by former White House Chief of Staff John Sununu and former Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady, said his three-day visit had been

"terribly emotional and wonderfully fulfilling."

"I have been welcomed in a way I will never forget. We have been treated by the emir and the Kuwaitis with the most wonderful hospitality," Mr. Bush told the troops at an army base.

Mr. Bush, accompanied by defence Minister Sheikh Ali Sabah Al Salem Al Sabah, also reviewed Kuwaiti troops and watched a fly-past by six U.S. F-18 warplanes of the Kuwaiti air force.

Mr. Bush later flew out of Kuwait airport in a Kuwait Airways jumbo jet painted with the slogan "we will not forget our prisoners of war" — a reference to 600 Kuwaitis missing since the occupation.

Marines leaving their mark in Somalia

By Paul Alexander
The Associated Press

MOGADISHU, Somalia — The sign of the red horse is popping up all over the area where the Marines of Charlie Company operate.

It is on the sides of the light-armoured vehicles patrolling the neighbourhoods straddling the line separating factional territory in Mogadishu. It is on the outside of houses where known thieves live, and it is on the side of a school where 650 children study.

Red horse is the radio call sign for Charlie Company of the 3rd Light Armoured Infantry based in Twentynine Palms, California for Mogadishu residents, it has become a symbol of stability and help as they try to rebuild from the ashes of civil war.

In between making their regular security patrols in the area, the Marines have undertaken civic works — setting up a police force, restarting schools, clearing roads, getting the water running — as part of a "heart-and-minds" campaign, with Somalis sharing the burden.

"When we hand out pumpkins or do projects, we are not," said Captain Robert Abbott. "No-one has ever accused us of favouring one side on the other."

The police force was a priority, even though criminals can only be

held 48 hours before they are released because there is no court system yet.

Somali police patrol with the Marines, since under the U.S.-led coalition's mandate in Operation Restore Hope, the police can not carry firearms yet when they are alone.

After the United Nations takes control, expected some time next month, the police will be able to chase bandits without calling the Marines for help with transportation, communications and firepower.

The Yaashid police station, the base of 150 former officers in their new dark-green uniforms, was a beehive of activity Thursday. Workers were painting the outside walls and cells. A typewriter clacked in one room.

"The people respect us now," said the new police chief, Major Abdul Ali Ahmad. "They realise now that we have the job."

The Marines are making sure their successors in the area, the Pakistanis, get a head start. They are painting small red horses on the houses of known bandits, some of whom are grudgingly moving out of the area.

Two schools have reopened, with the Marines supplying blackboards, books, pencils and scrap lumber for desks and chairs.

At the Tofiq grade school, orphans were learning the Somali

national song. Nine in one class wore "Nike Soccer" T-shirts donated by the Marines.

At the Tofiq school for older children, three classes were being held where bandits had stripped the roof, wooden benches and desktops from their concrete bases.

After the Marines removed bombs from the courtyard, community leader Hassan Abdi Rable paid for corrugated steel to cover three classrooms. The Marines responded with scrap wood for new desks and benches.

"It kind of snowballed," Captain Abbott said. "I've been crawling through dumpsters to scavenge pallets."

The efforts are appreciated. "We are sad they are going to go home," said Maj. Ahmad, the police chief. "You can see the difference in Mogadishu. They

know how to deal with the gangs, with the children, with the old women."

Maj. Mohammad Ahmad, the headmaster at the Tofiq grammar school, added: "If the Somali people could vote, the Marines wouldn't leave."

Ticklish problems remain. Capt. Abbott is trying to get a third school open, but squatters have been slow to move. He is concerned the project may lose momentum if it does not get going before the Marines pull out.

After animated talks among the police chief, the squatters' leader, and the Marines' Somali interpreter, Mr. Abbott agrees to see what he can do about clearing the cactus so the squatters can move to the courtyard of an abandoned compound across the pathway.

Libyan minister to miss Cairo talks

CAIRO (AP) — Libyan Minister Gomaa Al Mahdi Saturday blamed air travel sanctions imposed on Libya for his inability to attend an Arab League meeting in Cairo Sunday.

Mr. Mahdi was quoted by the Libyan news agency JANA as saying that the United Nations turned down a Libyan request to allow government delegations on

official business to break the air travel sanctions.

The year-old air travel, diplomatic representation and arms sales sanctions were imposed to force Libya to turn over for trial two Libyan suspects indicted in the bombing of a Pan Am flight in 1988. Earlier this month, the U.N. renewed the sanctions for another three months without escalating them.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Revue d'enfants
17:40 Les Cils de Fort Boyard
17:50 News in French
18:15 Le Journal de L'Hebdo
18:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Executive Stress
21:10 Documentary
21:30 News in English
22:20 Voltaire

PRAYER TIMES

04:38 Fajr
06:07 (Sunrise) Dhuha
12:35 Dhuhr
16:13 Asr
19:11 Maghreb
20:32 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swellfish, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637265
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637431

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 620543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772661

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 625226

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Jordan will remain under the effect of the khamasi weather conditions. Therefore, it will be hot, dry and dusty, with the appearance of some clouds during the day. Winds will be southeasterly fresh. In Aqaba, winds will be southerly moderate and seas rough.

Min./Max. temp. 18 / 34

Aqaba 23 / 41

Desert 15 / 37

Jordan Valley 19 / 39

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 33, Aqaba 40, Humidity readings: Amman 12 per cent, Aqaba 14 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Mahmoud Amour 838083

Dr. Abdul Aziz Taboun 650081

Dr. Jamal Al-Jabari 796460

Dr. Mohammad Al Ghoul 790730

Firas pharmacy 661912

Firdous pharmacy 770336

Al Asma pharmacy 637055

Nairoukh pharmacy 625672

Al Salam pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 644945

Shimacani pharmacy 637660

Najib pharmacy 847632

ZARQA:

Dr. Mubashir Hijawi (—)

Khalifah pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 651111

Rescue 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 891228

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 896390

Public Security Department 630021

Hotel Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage 897467

Complaints 767111

Amman Municipality 637055

Telephone Information 121

Over

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Sunday's Economic Pulse

Coping with foreign indebtedness

By Dr. Fahed Al Fanek

The overall volume of foreign indebtedness of the developing countries, including the old Soviet republics and East European countries, is now in the order of \$1,500 billion.

Foreign indebtedness is still on the rise. The outstanding balance is estimated to have risen by 5 per cent in 1992. When the crisis of international indebtedness erupted in 1982, total debts of the Third World countries were around \$840 billion. Ten years later, it is about double that much.

Lenders finally realised that the developing countries are not able to repay their debts. Not now nor in the foreseen future. As a matter of fact those countries are obliged to seek further borrowing to finance the gap in their balance of payments, and to secure the minimum requirements of imports.

Several reasons were responsible for the overgrowth of indebtedness during the seventies and early eighties:

- One: To finance economic and social development, because domestic savings were insufficient or non-existent. It was common sense, at the time, that the returns of development will be more than enough to repay the debt and interest.
- Two: Military governments and dictatorships in the Third World, which borrowed recklessly simply to raise the standard of living of the population by artificial means, thus borrowing time and buying the implied consent of the people despite the deteriorating situation.
- Three: The spread of corruption. Regimes borrowed aggressively from the international market, not to build projects, but to collect kick-backs and finance their capital flight.
- Four: A group of countries borrowed extensively to

purchase armaments and finance local wars and conflicts. The Third World witnessed numerous wars during the 45 years which followed World War II.

It is evident now that debtor countries will not be able to repay their debts at any future date. In order for the developing countries to be net payers to the industrialised countries, they should have a surplus in their balance of payments, i.e., they should become net exporters of goods and services to the industrialised countries. This is obviously not probable in the foreseeable future.

Therefore, the problem of foreign indebtedness will live with us for a long time. Most likely, the debt will be judged as bad and will be written off sooner or later. For the time being, the practice is to reduce the debt and reschedule payments for prolonged periods. This will only help lenders to build reserves, sufficient to forego the debt with a stroke of the pen and without shocks or other negative consequences.

In order for the debtor countries to benefit from the current relief schemes and postpone the burden, they have to show that they are serious about reforming their economies, and removing the distortions through the application of an economic adjustment programme approved by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

In the case of Jordan, the outstanding debt has declined to \$6.5 billion by the end of 1992. The reasons for this substantial reduction are: partial repayment of certain categories of debt and the buy-backs from the secondary market at 62 per cent discount. Jordan was buying its own debt at 38 cents cash to the dollar.

Jordan also cancelled several big acquisitions, which were supposed to be financed by loans, covering military and civilian aircraft.

At the same time, the economic adjustment programme which was adopted by Jordan was a success. The Jordanian economy performed well in 1992 and exceeded most of the targets set by the programme. These achievements gave Jordan a stronger bargaining position from which to obtain the best possible terms.

Jordan has already signed an agreement with the Paris Club, which encompasses all creditor states, whereby debts coming due by mid-1993 were rescheduled for 20 years with 10 years grace. Another agreement with the Paris Club is expected to reschedule all debts falling due by the end of 1994 at the same favourable terms and conditions.

Negotiations with the London Club, which includes banks and other commercial lenders, are going on and off. The government of Jordan feels confident and can wait until such time when banks become ready to give sufficient concessions. Until then, the government was active in buying back debt from the secondary market at a discount ranging from 65 to 68 per cent. It is worth mentioning that around one third of the commercial debt has already been bought back at the above mentioned discount. If the agreement with the London Club is to stall for some time, the club will have very little outstanding debt remaining for negotiation.

The crisis of Jordan's foreign indebtedness has been contained. It is now under full control. It is no longer a hurdle in the face of growth and investments in a stable climate.

Water? Not everywhere

SUMMER HAS descended on us rather prematurely this year, and probably with a bit of vengeance too. With the heat wave soaring into new heights even in the middle of the spring season, the water problem looms already ever more ominously in the horizon. As in every summer time we remind ourselves rather ritually that the country's strategic water reserves are nowhere near what the Kingdom needs now, it is time again to take stock of where we are and where we are going in the perpetual quest for a solution to the water problem. The figures about the water shortages speak for themselves and underscore the urgency of the situation. The minister of water and irrigation, Mr. Samir Kwar, has already announced that the water shortage for this year is expected to reach no less than 321 million cubic metres. This figure is projected to reach a phenomenal 574 million cubic metres in the year 2005.

The solution to this growing problem is clearly both economic as well as political. With the natural resources of the country being what they are, limited at best, there has got to be a regional formula for Jordan's water requirements as well as those of our neighbours. True that the increase in population in Jordan has been unusually high lately due to the influx of our people from the Gulf region in the aftermath of the Gulf war in 1990-91; still the natural population growth in the country is in itself high enough, having reached the rate of 3.6 per cent in last year alone. There is no escape from the conclusion that Jordanians would have to look inward for part of the solution at least and externally for a permanent panacea.

The country has been preaching about the urgent need for water rationalisation for some time already with little success. It seems that Jordanians have yet to acquire a culture for conservation including when it comes to water in spite of the fact that water is the mainstay of the country. Resort to pricing schemes in a bid to control water usage has not succeeded either because the rich among us simply cannot care enough about how high the price water is, especially when it comes to satisfying their lust for water in the summer. Even water distribution plans have failed to curb the overuse of water simply because the haves among us simply fill their large reservoirs during the days when the municipality water is flowing normally into their homes. The attempts by the government both local and central to control of water seepage and waste has yet to reach the level that would make a difference to the water crisis. Dam constructions have indeed solved part of the problem, but again the level of dam and reservoir construction has yet to reach the point that could make a final or strategic difference. It would seem that the long-range solution lies in a regional agreement on water sharing. Left unresolved, the water problem in the Middle East could trigger not one but a series of wars. Until final resolution is reached, however, we have to do homework here. Every measure that can be taken now must be adopted as if a long-term solution does not exist.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE ARAB parties to the peace talks with Israel are facing a crucial moment in deciding whether to go to the American capital on April 20 or not, said Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily Saturday. This is because the U.S. administration, which is supposed to facilitate the Arab participation and the smooth resumption of the talks, is practically placing obstacles in the path of the negotiations by its total bias towards Israel which by no means reflects its claim that it would play the role of full partner in the coming parity, said the daily. Washington is continuing to back Israel's disregard of Resolution 799, on the question of the expellees, and supports Israel's repressive measures against the Palestinians who are now under siege, the paper added. The Palestinian delegation, whose members have been having talks in Washington, realised this fact and found that the Americans are adopting unclear stands with regard to the peace process and are adamantly rejecting the Palestinian demands which, if met, would facilitate the return of the Palestinian delegation to the negotiating table, the paper continued. It said that Washington believes that all the outstanding issues concerning the expellees and the Israeli repressive measures can be discussed in Washington, and is therefore urging the Arab parties to go to the talks with no prior conditions. But, the paper said, this American position gives no guarantee that the Israelis would repatriate the expellees or ease their repressive measures in the occupied lands. This American position, said the paper, is not only obstructing the resumption of the talks, but also embarrassing the Palestinian delegation before the Palestinian people.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Arabic daily demanded that the current election law be slightly amended to give way for women to be elected. Nadia Aloul said that Jordanian women have often heard promises by the deputies, before and after the 1989 election, that they would advocate women's causes and support their rights. But nothing has been done and achieved for women who are still treated differently from men and discriminated against at various levels, said the writer. Democracy, which has started permeating the life of Jordan, can never be complete, said the writer, if certain sectors of the public remain deprived of their legitimate rights and their freedom. There can be no chance for women to reach Parliament, added the writer, as long as women in this country continue to suffer from the remnants of the dark ages and are deprived of free will. She said that there is a strong relationship between democracy and freedom but that, unfortunately, is inapplicable in the case of women in Jordan who, she said, are not granted the right to choose deputies or be elected and participate in the works of the legislative authority.

Enough talking — genocide in Bosnia has to stop

By Sadruddin Aga Khan



Sadruddin Aga Khan

WASHINGTON — A moment of truth has arrived in Bosnia. It is not the illusory one that diplomats have in mind.

They believe that with the Bosnian Muslims and Croats signing of the United Nations peace accord the pressure on the Serbs has mounted, and that the Serbs will risk further isolation and condemnation unless they sign. Not since Neville Chamberlain's capitulation at Munich has the world expected so much of war criminals.

The homilies and promises of a new world order will not be worth the countless hours of speeches, voluminous contents of foreign policy journals, mountains of U.N. documentation and talking heads' pieties on television if the world fails its straightforward test.

Genocide is being carried out on television news every day. This is not Cambodia, where we outsiders could pretend we did not see it.

The world has told the Serbs to stop. The Security Council has threatened. Europe, Russia, America and others have pounded their fists and said "Enough!" The Serbs are not the only wrongdoers in the war, but they are the principal ones and are unstoppable. They may soon resume the large-scale "ethnic cleansing." The test is this: Is the international community finally going to block them?

At a moment of raised expectations, the United Nations is being made the world's fig leaf. The whole moral foundation of its existence is in jeopardy. Its envoy, Cyrus Vance, and his European Community counterpart, Lord Owen, were obliged to negotiate with war criminals and

as a way to the ends. Now ends stretch off into a vague distance. With the Serbs isolated, we are told that further action against them can occur only when they have signed the accords — which their parliament rejected — and then do not abide by them. So what must be done has again been postponed, and more U.N. limp hand-holding is left to take the place of a credible threat of punishment.

The U.S. administration and Congress have indicated that they are as reluctant to see U.S. troops involved as European governments are to see a widened role for their contingents. So when the bluff was called, it was not the Serbs but the international community whose bluster was exposed.

One day we may wonder how we let smooth-talking opinion-makers convince us into believing that this conflict in the heart of Europe was a moral issue rather than a vital one, as Kuwait was.

This conflict has put believers of the two biggest religions at each others' throats, stoked ugly Russian nationalism, threatened Kosovo and Macedonia and stirred ancient hostilities among Turks, Greeks, Albanians and Bulgarians. Only a moral issue? For Islamic governments, whose tepid response has been no firmer than that of their western counterparts, this mass murder of Muslims puts new strains on their efforts at home to contain religious radicalisation and protect their own minorities.

From Central Asia to Europe, the large Muslim populations' relations with their neighbours can only be aggravated. If a threat to oil is the criterion for intervention, then the fuse that has been

lit in the Balkans may be longer — but is no less dangerous — than that posed by the invasion of Kuwait. In a world where ethnic, religious and nationalist conflicts are considered the new menace, the international community is failing the test.

The recommendations by a team President Bill Clinton sent to Bosnia to evaluate the plight of civilians are long overdue. (Will he act upon them?) The team suggests that he weigh the creation of "safe havens" protected by international military forces to ensure delivery of aid and stop the Serbs' artillery. The team properly suggests that those "havens" be centres of habitual residence that are being shelled. It would be a mistake to uproot populations and create such havens elsewhere in Bosnia.

The Vance-Owen peace talks were diplomacy, on the cheap: words without force. The international community has no choice but to begin a purposeful commitment of troops to back a broadened U.N. mission involving armed relief corridors on land or in the air and protective cordons around besieged cities, and if the Serbs challenge these arrangements, a willingness to escalate our involvement and penalties until they desist.

We have run out of talking room. Unless the Serbs understand this, there is no credible deterrent. The military response must be not incremental and grudging but measured and determined.

The writer was United Nations high commissioner for refugees from 1965 to 1977. The article is reprinted from the New York Times.

Patten's H.K. reforms and why China hates them

By David Stamp
Reuters

HONG KONG — Britain, which for 150 years ruled Hong Kong through an unelected elite, is finally pushing for significant democratic reforms — just four years before it hands the colony back to China.

To Governor Chris Patten, they are modest proposals leaving Hong Kong far short of full-blooded democracy. To China they are a British trick to create havoc after 1997.

The proposals also represent a break with past colonial governments, which have long argued against democracy for Hong Kong on the grounds it would be divisive and would be opposed by China.

Since Gov. Patten proposed the reforms last October, Peking has waged a furious campaign to force him into submission.

After six months of deadlock, Sino-British talks on Hong Kong's future are due to start in Peking next week but China still appears determined to destroy the Patten package.

So what exactly are the changes which have enraged Peking?

From Gov. Patten's viewpoint, China should have little to worry about. As agreed with Peking, Hong Kong's government will remain "executive-led", he says. As agreed with Peking, only a third of the legislature will be directly elected in 1995.

In short, the Legislative Council will act only as a watchdog with limited powers, just as it

does now. Furthermore, both sides agree on the outline of the 1995 legislature, which is laid down in the basic law — Hong Kong's post-1997 constitution. The 60-seat council will be made up of 20 directly-elected members, 10 chosen by an electoral college and 30 elected by "functional constituencies" — professional groups such as lawyers, teachers and chambers of commerce.

But there the agreement ends.

We're not talking about some great leap towards some greater democracy. What we are talking about is putting in place for the 1995 elections, the last ones under British sovereignty, electoral arrangements which won't guarantee a rubber-stamp legislative council — Patten

"We're not talking about some great leap towards some greater democracy," Gov. Patten said recently.

"What we are talking about is putting in place for the 1995 elections, the last ones under British sovereignty, electoral arrangements which won't guarantee a rubber-stamp legislative council."

China doesn't see it that way. "Patten's intentions...are to carry out major changes in Hong

Kong's political system, to raise up the position of the Legislative Council, to gradually transform Hong Kong's executive-led system to a legislative-led one, to embolden the government and legislature in all manner of controversy," Foreign Minister Qian Qichen said in a recent interview.

Few local people demanded democracy until the 1980s when anxiety started to grow about whether the colony would keep its economic and social freedoms

ten's exploitation of grey areas in the basic law, which could bequeath the mainland a far from tame legislature in which a majority of members were directly or indirectly elected.

As Gov. Patten points out, nowhere does the law state the make-up of the functional constituencies or who should sit on the electoral college in 1995.

Existing functional constituencies have tiny electorates, ranging from a few dozen to a few thousand, and nearly all have picked conservative legislators who oppose confronting China.

But Gov. Patten has overturned local assumptions by creating nine new functional constituencies which would give every worker — almost half the six million population — a second vote.

Likewise, Gov. Patten proposes that the electoral college should be made up of popularly-elected local councillors, in China's mind another back-door route to direct elections.

Analysts expect Chinese negotiators will try to force Britain to drop these two proposals in particular at the talks in Peking.

Add all his proposals together, and suddenly a majority 39 legislators would be elected by the Hong Kong people directly or indirectly, not the minority 20 China had expected.

Bearing in mind Hong Kong voters' preference for pro-democracy liberals, China faces the alarming prospect of inheriting an assertive and even rebellious legislature at the handover.

LETTERS

Costly omissions

To the Editor:

It was interesting to read in the Jordan Times (April 12) of the concern of the Public Security Department over the increase in road accidents. One phrase in particular caught my attention: "...despite all efforts made by the department to reduce them (road accidents)." If "all efforts" have been made, then we, who drive the roads of the Kingdom, are in real danger. With due respect to the progress that has been made, there are some glaring inconsistencies and gaps that anyone can see:

- 1) While it is good to, once in a while, enforce the seat-belt law, this does nothing to stop drivers from roaring through stop signs, cutting in front of you or passing on blind corners. You are still going to get hit; the only question is how much you will be paying in damages to your car and your body.
- 2) The traffic police seem to be quite keen on setting up radar posts on highways — necessary, I suppose. But what about the thousands of residential streets where drivers tear around in flagrant disregard for laws? Maybe there are no laws there — have you ever seen a traffic policeman patrolling the neighbourhoods? There seems to be more concern that your car has a nice paint job for licensing than there is about the hordes of young men who get the keys to their fathers' shiny Mercedes and BMWs and create havoc on the streets.
- 3) There are many areas around town where a policeman is employed full-time with the benign task of giving out parking tickets. I have yet to see a policeman enforce any stop-sign violations. Stop-signs in this country mean virtually nothing — a waste of money unless they are taken seriously, and yet many of these intersections witness accidents week after week.

I suggest a major redeployment of traffic police to where the real problems are. Unless there are some new laws regarding speeding on residential streets, unless reckless driving is dealt with, until stop signs are taken seriously, we motorists will continue to drive our nicely painted cars and keep the doctors, hospitals and morgues busy.

Bob Robertson,
P.O. Box No. 4105,
Amman.

Hypocrisy or sustainability?

To the Editor:

After reading Elizabeth Sobo's letter, "The West's arrogant hypocrisy", (Jordan Times, April 14, 1993), I thought I should add a few things.

If for no reason other than the critical water shortage in this area, one must support programmes related to population control. At a recent lecture, Dr. Munther Haddadin, the former head of the Jordan Valley Authority and presently one of Jordan's delegates at the multilateral peace talks, graphically explained that the present level of water resources in this region is adequate to support a population of five million people, where in actual fact 10 million persons are presently living. This means that twice as many people are living in this area than our current water resources can support!

Jordan has one of the highest birth rates in the world. That, plus additions to the existing population due to regional conflicts, has already strained our water resources to a nightmarish level. Without new sources or methods to increase our water supply, population control is not only necessary, it is imperative to assure a future to the countries of this region.

It is very well for a delegation opposed to population control to agitate in their "mother" country, but quite another thing for such a group to export their extremist views when they are ignorant of basic issues. I suggest that the next time Ms. Sobo and her group homework first. Perhaps then she and those like her would realise that instead of "devaluing" children and "getting rid of Arabs", these conferences are trying to insure that the population is sustainable within the limitations of the natural resources of the region.

Karen Asfour,
P.O. Box 6367,
Amman.

Local staff

To the Editor:

I refer to the Diary column written by Nermeen Murad in the April 1, 1993, edition of the Jordan Times.

The writer, under the headline *Rehailed*, wrote about JTV commercial "Jabri Chocolate — Tutu" and described the boy as a "young Egyptian boy." The article also gave wrong information: "JTV has commissioned the boy to participate in a locally produced musical comedy TV programme of 12 parts." Even if it comes under the "April fools joke," I trust that you will write about the Jordanian boy, Yazen Zaytoon, mentioning Jordanians.

Abdel Mubeen Zaytoon,
Manager of Organisation Dept.,
Arab Bank Plc.,
Amman.

South Africa faces explosive week after slaying

By David Tucker
Reuters

JOHANNESBURG — South Africa faces a critical and potentially explosive week following the slaying of black activist Chris Hani, allegedly shot by a white assassin.

The African National Congress (ANC) said Tuesday it was doing all it could to prevent an all-out racial war.

"The country is on a knife-edge," said Peter Esterhuizen of the private African Institute for South Africa.

"If we can get through the next week, everyone will breathe a sigh of relief," he told Reuters.

The government called on the ANC and other black opposition groups to exercise restraint in the wake of Saturday's murder of Mr. Hani, general secretary of the South African Communist Party (SACP).

Wednesday has been declared "the day of Hani," and the ANC has called for a mass work stay-away to allow millions of its supporters the chance to mourn Mr. Hani at services throughout the country.

Passions are running high among rank-and-file ANC members, particularly the restive youths who idolised Mr. Hani as a former guerrilla commander in the long struggle against the white rule.

But ANC leaders, including Nelson Mandela, have appealed for calm, saying Mr. Hani's death should not be allowed to disrupt the path from white rule to democracy. They say Mr. Hani himself was committed to negotiations

and would not have wished his death to ignite a race war.

ANC activist Tokyo Sewale, a close friend of Mr. Hani's, urged 800 blacks gathered near Boksburg magistrates' court, — where Mr. Hani murder suspect Janusz Walus, a Polish immigrant, made a three-minute appearance on Tuesday — not to vent their anger on whites.

"It may have been the hand of a white male that slaughtered him but it was the eyes of a white woman who helped us catch this bastard," said Mr. Sewale, referring to a witness whose report led to the arrest of Mr. Walus.

"Make sure no-one among us can be pointed to and said he started a racial war," Mr. Sewale said. Four whites have been killed by mobs since Mr. Hani's

assassination on Saturday.

Mr. Esterhuizen said that while senior black political leaders were calling for restraint, some middle-ranking activists were stirring up emotions.

"The challenge to the top leadership is whether they will be able to keep the reins on these lower-level leaders. It will also depend a lot of how Mr. Hani's funeral is going to be handled," he said.

A date has still to be set for the funeral which the ANC wants to be the biggest public mourning ceremony to be held in South Africa.

ANC spokesman Ronnie Mamoepe said he believed leaders would be able to keep a lid on the situation provided the white-led security forces did not "provoke the people."

It's a question of political skill and our leadership has shown it has that skill," said Mr. Mamoepe.

"We are doing all we can to prevent an all-out racial war," Mr. Mandela made an unprecedented appeal for calm on national television within hours of Mr. Hani's assassination.

Political analysts said at the weekend Mr. Hani was probably the most popular leader among militant black youths, many of them unemployed and without hope of work, who have seen little benefit from the reform process initiated by President F.W. de Klerk three years ago.

"In a sense the goodwill is evaporating rapidly," said Cape Town University analyst Robert Schrire, referring to the initial euphoria when Mr. de Klerk

freed Mr. Mandela and legalised black opposition groups.

Mr. Mamoepe said the ANC was trying to channel the anger of blacks into public outpourings of grief rather than revenge attacks on whites.

Ministry of Law and Order spokesman Captain Craig Kotze said it was vital that opposition groups not try to make political capital out of Mr. Hani's killing.

"The situation is extremely volatile... with all due respect to Mr. Hani, we cannot resurrect him, the concern should be for the living. Everybody has a duty to dampen down the situation," Capt. Kotze said.

He appealed to blacks "not to provoke the forces of law and order."

Political analysts said they doubted the white right would further try to exacerbate the situation.

"You could say they got the first shot in," said one analyst referring to alleged assassin Walus's links to the right-wing Afrikaner Resistance Movement (AWB).

AWB leader Eugene Terre Blanche has publicly dissociated himself from the killing.

"We did not give any instructions to do such a deed. I condemned the deed the day that it happened," he said.

JORDAN WELFARE LOTTERY

Ordinary Issue No. 7

Drawing of April 17, 1993

Winning Tickets

Holder of ticket No. 54318 Wins JD 30,000	Ten consolation prizes totaling JD 1,300 each with JD 120
Holder of ticket No. 56656 Wins JD 7,000	Ten consolation prizes totaling JD 700 each with JD 70
Holder of ticket No. 40062 Wins JD 3,500	Ten consolation prizes totaling JD 300 each with JD 30
Holder of ticket No. 28403 Wins JD 2,500	Ten consolation prizes totaling JD 200 each with JD 20
Holder of ticket No. 01598 Wins JD 1,500	Ten consolation prizes totaling JD 100 each with JD 10
Holder of ticket No. 32468 Wins JD 1,200	Ten consolation prizes totaling JD 100 each with JD 10
Holder of ticket No. 71474 Wins JD 1,000	Ten consolation prizes totaling JD 100 each with JD 10
Holder of ticket No. 40843 Wins JD 800	Ten consolation prizes totaling JD 100 each with JD 10

Ticket numbers 53805 31560 97544 97673	Win JD 200 each
Ticket numbers 77962 54932 88376	Win JD 100 each

TICKETS ENDING WITH

9349 8349 6248 Win JD 50 each	1438 6207 4715 Win JD 20 each
0754 4130 8698 Win JD 10 each	1353 9580 Win JD 10 each
0470 9459 Win JD 10 each	213 185 504 861 Win JD 5 each
21 Win JD 3 each	10,000 ticket ending with 5 Win JD 2 each

COVER PRIZES FOR THE LOTTERY SELLERS

50 covers, attached to the stub of 10 ending in 532 768 798 764 179	Win JD 10
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Winners of the grand prizes in the ordinary issue number 6 of April 2, 1993

Isaiah Shakhour Amman - Merchant Full First - JD 30,000	Mamun Abdul Owf Irbid - Housewife Half Second - JD 3,500	Mohammad Al Khali Irbid Half Second - JD 3,500	Abdullah Al Khali Amman - Worker Half Third - JD 1,750	Sahel Salamon Amman - Engineer Half Third - JD 1,750	Ali Zawahid Amman - Housewife Full Fourth - JD 500
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Next Draw takes place on May 2, 1993

First biggest prizes are issued from GUVS headquarters

Arabs defer decision on peace talks

(Continued from page 1)

to "force Israel to conform with U.N. Security Council resolutions and contribute to the creation of a climate likely to restart the negotiations."

Mr. Sharaa, commenting on the telephone call with Mr. Christopher, said:

"We exchanged views on international efforts to remove the obstacles... the conversation was important and helped us all to crystallise a unified Arab position to resume the peace process and remove the obstacles blocking it."

This is the second time in three weeks that Arabs have failed to agree to resume the peace process on April 20 as proposed by the United States, the main sponsor of the 17-month-old peace process.

Asked what were the Palestinians' specific concerns, Mr. Kadumani said:

"There is a siege of the Palestinian people. There are deportees. There is an understanding of the meaning of the peace process."

"The Palestinian people feel the weight of these obstacles," Hanan Ashrawi, the Palestinian delegation's spokeswoman, told a news conference in the United States Friday that the Palestinians would urge their Arab partners to join them in calling for a postponement.

Muslim fundamentalist leader Ibrahim Ghosheh, a Hamas spokesman based in Amman, warned Saturday of "deeper divisions" in the Israeli-occupied territories if the Palestinians attended the talks. He said his movement has a pledge from the PLO to quit the Middle East peace process.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's spokesman Gad Ben-Ari said Israel had "not received any official word" about the delay asked by Arab foreign ministers.

In Bahrain, the Al Ayam daily Saturday quoted Nabil Shaath, a senior adviser to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, as saying the Palestinians sought the postponement because Mr. Rabin has not done enough "to convince the Palestinians to return to the negotiating table."

The Americans, seeking to persuade the Arabs back to the negotiating table, have said that the Israelis will offer unspecified "more flexible positions" once the talks have resumed.

The PLO is demanding a clear Israeli acceptance of U.N. Security Council Resolution 799, which calls for repatriation of the expelled in South Lebanon.

The PLO also wants an Israeli commitment to stop expulsions and halt human rights abuses in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Middle East analyst Charles Snow, writing in the respected Middle East Economic Survey, noted that the Americans are asking the Palestinians "to take it on trust" that Israel is prepared to make concessions once the talks resume.

"But trust is a commodity which is understandably in short supply between Palestinians and Israelis, and the American assurances of unspecified Israeli gestures after the Arabs agree to resume the talks are all the less credible in Arab eyes for Washington's inability to produce any evidence of Israeli flexibility beforehand," Mr. Snow said.

Whether the Syrians, Jordanians and Lebanese contemplate the possibility of eventually going to the peace talks without the

Palestinians remains open to question.

Jordan, which form a joint delegation with the Palestinians, has said it will not go alone.

Syria, now the key Arab player in the negotiations, has repeatedly committed itself to a comprehensive settlement involving all the Arab parties.

In his telephone conversation, Mr. Christopher discussed possibly delaying the resumption of peace talks by five days until April 25, delegates said.

Sources from two different delegations said Mr. Christopher discussed the possibility to give more time to resolve the crisis.

A senior Palestinian official told Reuters earlier Saturday the Palestinians wanted a written pledge by Israel that it would allow a quick return of the expelled, an end to Israel's two-week closure of the West Bank and Gaza and other measures before Palestinians agree to go to Washington.

Saleh Ra'fat, member of the Palestine Central Council, said the Palestinian demand was discussed by the Arab foreign ministers in Damascus.

Mr. Ra'fat said offers made by Israel to resume the 17-month-old peace talks were not enough. He said Palestinian delegates Faisal Al Hussein and Haidar Abdul Shafi had asked the United States to postpone the talks because Palestinians were not satisfied.

He said Palestinians wanted copies of the Israeli written concessions to be deposited with the United States and Russia, the co-sponsors of the peace talks.

He listed the demands as: — An Israeli commitment to halt expulsions, to implement the spirit of U.N. Resolution 799 calling for the return of the expelled, and to give a timetable for the quick return of the remaining 396 Palestinians from South Lebanon.

— Commitment to return a sizeable number of other Palestinians expelled since 1967, to end the closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and to stop human rights violations in the occupied territories.

— A pledge that Israel is committed to U.N. resolutions 242 and 338 as terms of reference for the peace process.

In Arab East Jerusalem, Mr. Hussein officially called on the United States to delay the ninth negotiating session.

He delivered a message in the name of his delegation to the U.S. council general there, Molly Williamson, Palestinian sources said.

In the message, the Palestinian delegation stressed that "necessary conditions" had not been met for a resumption of the talks on April 20.

The United States Friday urged the Arabs to resume the peace talks.

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said Washington had not received a formal request for a postponement but it wants the talks to resume April 20 and was optimistic they would.

"It's our firm conviction that the needs and concerns of all the parties, especially those of the Palestinians, can be addressed most effectively at the negotiating table," he said.

Mr. Boucher urged the Arab ministers meeting in Damascus to approve participation in the talks, saying: "We believe that the time to make that decision is now. We think that too much time has already been lost since the last round in December."

Ozal dies of heart attack

(Continued from page 1)

tried to assassinate him at a party congress in June 1988 when he was prime minister, but he escaped with a wounded hand.

Mr. Ozal's spokesman Kaya Toperi said the president's illness may have been brought on by fatigue.

Under the constitution, Parliament Speaker Husametdin Cindoruk will act as president until the 450-member parliament finds the two-thirds majority needed to elect a new one.

The Parliament cannot vote before a 10-day nomination period but must elect a new president within 20 days after that.

"Ozal was the pioneer of many developments in the Turkish economy. What he started should be

continued," said Erhan Karadayi, a banker, recalling the liberal reforms Mr. Ozal pushed through as prime minister in the 1980s.

Ulvi Demiroglu, another banker, said the president should be remembered for the impact his reforms had made on people's lives. "We can never disregard what Ozal has achieved."

Ankara taxi-driver Osman Merdol said Mr. Ozal had clung to power too long. "He was like (former heavyweight boxing champion) Muhammad Ali. He should have quit when he was at the top."

Tayfun Aksu, a grocer, said Mr. Ozal's stature would become clear only in death. "We Turks only understand the value of a man when he dies. His value will be understood from now on."

The protesters dispersed after Dr. Abdul Shafi's son, Khalid, told them his father would not be attending the next round of talks.

Dr. Abdul Shafi said Friday the Palestinians should not attend the next round of talks because Israel had failed to meet the Palestinians' minimum demands.

The clashes erupted during demonstrations to mark the fifth anniversary of the death of Palestine Liberation Organisation official Khalil Al Wazir (Abu Jihad).

The worst fighting occurred in Gaza City, where troops opened fire several times on youths throwing stones, the sources said.

Palestinian leaders had called on residents of the Gaza Strip to demonstrate and strike to mark Abu Jihad's assassination in Tunis at the hands of an Israeli commando unit. Most traders supported the strike call.

Closure of occupied lands 'irreversible'

(Continued from page 1)

Lebanon in December.

Wives and children of the Palestinian expellees held a sit-in on Saturday outside the home of the chief Palestinian delegate to the Middle East peace talks, Palestinians said.

They said 75 women, accompanied by 30 children, sat for five hours in front of the home of Haidar Abdul Shafi in Gaza City in the occupied Gaza Strip.

They chanted "No peace until the deportees return" and carried banners protesting Palestinian participation in the peace talks.

Children carried banners saying: "Daddy, daddy, come back, we're waiting for you on the borders."

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Players of French team Limoges carry their coach Bozidar Maljkovic as they jubilate after winning the European Basketball Championship (AFP photo)

France goes wild over basketball victory

PARIS (AP) — Premier Edouard Balladur saluted the CSP Limoges basketball team Friday as France savored the team's hair-raising victory to capture the European Champions Cup.

Limoges defeated Treviso of Italy in a come-from-behind 59-55 triumph in Athens, Greece.

It marked the first time that a French club in a come-from-behind European inter-champion trophy.

"Let's hope that it opens the way for new French success in other sports, perhaps soon," Balladur said in a congratulatory telegram.

Celebrations in the central French city of 133,000 went on into the wee hours, with weeping and cheering fans swilling champagne, tossing firecrackers and mobbing the streets.

Some 3,000 mobbed the small

airport when the victorious squad returned, captain Richard Vancour raised the trophy over his head to wild chants of "Limoges, Limoges."

The victory featured on the front pages of the sports daily L'Equipe, which bannered the headline "day of glory," as well as staid newspapers like the conservative daily Le Figaro.

The Italian press took defeat badly. While stressing the mistake made by Treviso and star player Toni Kukoc, the daily Gazzetta dello Sport criticized Limoges, gridlock defence.

"It was not basketball," huffed Gazzetta. "It was like wrestling. Only knives were not used."

Limoges is the fourth club to win all three of basketball's European cups. It won the Cupwinners' Cup in 1988 and the Cup Korac — similar to the UEFA Cup in soccer — in 1982 and 1983.

McColgan-Ondieki feud dominates London Marathon

LONDON (AFP) — The ongoing feud between Britain's Liz McColgan and Australia's Lisa Ondieki will ensure that for once the women's race will attract more attention than the men's in Sunday's London Marathon.

The build-up has been dominated by the so-called "cat fight" between the two arch rivals, with McColgan writing off Ondieki's chances and the Australian branding the world 10,000m champion as arrogant.

The Scot said: "She's a very competitive athlete, but I don't feel she's a major threat. I'm confident I can beat her."

McColgan, already guaranteed an estimated 150,000 pounds just for lining up in her first marathon in Britain, has also angered the double Commonwealth champion by saying that she would not be surprised to touch the two hours 20 minutes barrier and so break Ingrid Kristiansen's world record.

That feat would net her an extra 170,000 pounds in prize money and bonuses, which would represent a haul of 320,000 pounds — the most lucrative day's work on the roads in history.

But Ondieki warned: "She talks about breaking records, but I'm just here to race. If she runs the times she says she will, okay, but if she doesn't, she might look quite foolish."

However, McColgan does have a psychological edge over the 1988 Olympic silver medalist, having beaten her in two previous major road race encounters — the New York Marathon in 1991 and last year's Tokyo half-marathon.

The men's entry is headed by Djibouti's Ahmad Salah, the second fastest man in history

Miller captures gymnastics world title

BIRMINGHAM (AP) — Shannon Miller watched from the stands as rival gymnast Gina Gogean marched on to the mat aiming to beat her to the world title.

The American had completed all her routines in the all-around final and Gogean, a Romanian, was the last competitor capable of catching Miller's score.

Gogean needed to score 9.808 for gold and had a sellout crowd of some 10,000 fans clapping in time with the Scottish reels she had chosen for her routine.

She strung together a series of handstands, twists and flips, hardly making a mistake, and she left the floor to some of the loudest cheers of the night.

Then all eyes strained on the scoreboard. It flashed up 9.800 and Miller, 16, had won her first world title by 0.007 of a point.

Winner of two silvers and three bronze medals at last year's Olympics and two second places at the World Championships at Indianapolis two years ago, Miller at last took a gold.

Yet she was low key about her achievement.

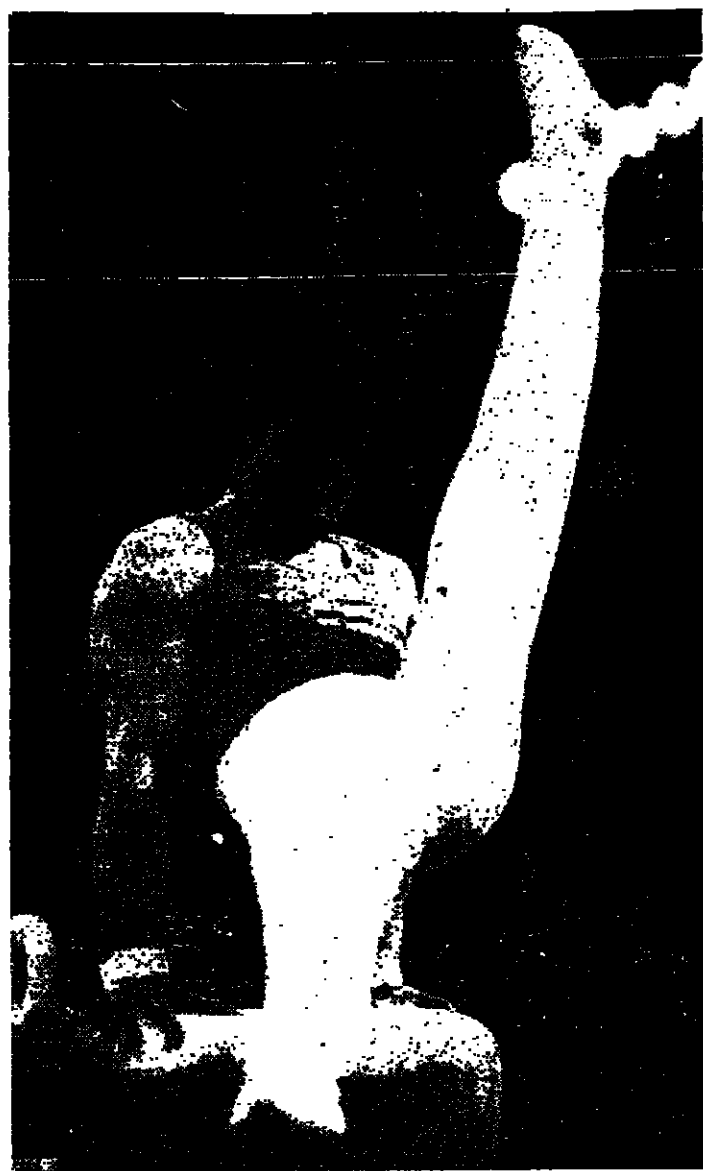
"It was a great experience coming here and I worked hard for the competition and I'm glad I did as well as I could," she said.

"It's not as big as the Olympics but I'm glad I did well."

Miller's worst performance in Friday's all-around final was on the beam, one of her strongest disciplines. After top scoring with 9.825 on the uneven bars, she took two quick back steps to steady herself on landing from the beam and slipped to 9.625 that compared with her 9.887 in qualifying and she dropped from second to fifth overall.

She made up ground with 9.825 on floor exercises and then came her best performance of the night.

"The second vault was the best thing I did," Miller said. Her first



Belarus gymnast Vitaly Scherbo on his way to a gold medal while performing on the pommel in all around individual competition at the World Gymnastics Championships (AFP photo)

gained a score of 9.778 and the second 9.800. It was enough to win her the title.

Her total was 39.062 points while Gogean scored 39.055.

"I thought it was very hard to have a score good enough to come first," the Romanian said.

Tatiana Lysenko of Ukraine edged American gymnast Dominique Dawes for the bronze. Lysenko scored 39.011 and Dawes, 16, from Silver Spring, MD., had 38.830.

Dawes stumbled twice on landing while in a winning position on

the vaults.

Grigori Misiutin of Ukraine upstaged Olympics star Vitaly Scherbo to win the men's floor exercise gold medal Saturday at the World Gymnastics Championships.

Misiutin scored 9.400 points with the last routine of the eight finalists to capture the gold medal.

Scherbo, a Belarusian who won six gold medals at the Barcelona Olympics, placed equal second with Britain's Neil Thomas, who both scored 9.350.

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

American Automotive Show in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Amman International Motor Show and the Jordanian Dealers of American Automobiles, in cooperation with the American Embassy, will hold the American Automotive show, the first automotive show ever to be held in Jordan that focusses solely on American vehicles, parts and accessories. The show, opens Tuesday, April 20 and continues through Saturday, April 24, at the Amman International Motor Show on the road to the airport. It will feature new 1993 cars, pickups and vans from Ford, General Motors and Jeep. Part of the extensive collection of classic and new American cars and motorcycles from the Royal Garages will also be on display.

Manchester city fined £50,000 for crowd trouble

LONDON (R) — English premier league Manchester City were fined £50,000 sterling (\$76,000) by the Football Association Friday following the pitch invasion during their home F.A. Cup tie against Tottenham last month. An F.A. commission also ordered club to play one match behind closed doors — a punishment suspended until the end of the 1993-94 season. City were charged with failing to control their crowd. Some 300 of their fans swarmed on to the pitch three minutes before the end of the quarter-final, won 4-2 by Tottenham.

Qatar trounce Singapore 4-1

DOHA (AP) — Qatar surged back to the top of Asia Group C Friday, coming from a goal behind and scoring three times in the last seven minutes to beat Singapore 4-1. The half-time score was 0-0. In a second game, Vietnam defeated Indonesia 1-0. The Qatar victory puts the team level with North Korea on points but ahead on goal difference. Qatar and North Korea play the last game of this group Sunday.

Schwartz in Japanese hat-trick

SUZUKA (AFP) — Kevin Schwartz pulled a pole position hat-trick here Saturday as he clipped his own overnight course in the second qualifying session for the Japanese Motorcycling Grand Prix. The 28-year-old Texan clocked 2min 09.239sec on his Suzuki. 0.801sec faster than his record-breaking first practice run, to clinch his third pole position in as many Grands Prix this season. Honda rider Shinichi Itoh of Japan posted the second fastest time of 2:10.164 with one minute left in the hour-long session. Reigning world champion Wayne Rainey, who denied Schwartz a second straight win in Malaysia two weeks ago, was pushed back to third spot with a time of 2:10.229 on his Yamaha.

Colombian hits out at AIDS claims

BOGOTA (AFP) — Ruben "Huracan" Palacios, stripped of his World Boxing Organisation featherweight title because he allegedly failed an AIDS test, claims he was set up by the British Boxing Authorities. "They have never forgiven me since I beat Colin McMillan for the title in London last September," he said when he flew in here from London. "It's a fix," he added. He claimed AIDS tests in Colombia had all been negative.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSCH
Tribune Media Services, Inc.

DEVOURING DECLARER

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 7 6 3
♥ A K 8 5
♦ K 8 3
♣ J 7 2

WEST EAST
♠ K Q 10 ♠ A J
♥ J 2 ♥ 10 9 7 6 4 3
♦ Q J 8 5 4 ♦ 7
♣ Q 9 3 ♣ 10 8 6 4

SOUTH
♠ 9 8 5 4 2
♥ Q
♦ A 10 9 2
♣ A K 5

The bidding:
South West North East
1♠ Pass 2♥ Pass
2♠ Pass 3♥ Pass
4♠ Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Five of ♠

The prize for the best defense at the Philip Morris European Mixed Championship was won by Sylvia Terraneo of Austria for her fine effort on this hand. A disastrous opening lead seemed to have given the contract to declarer, but a thoughtful play allowed West to recover.

North-South bid to a game which, had the queen of hearts been the queen of diamonds, would have been a good one, depending on little more than a 3-2 trump break. As it was declarer was in danger of losing three trump tricks plus one in a minor suit.

Terraneo, sitting West, found the unfortunate lead of a low diamond. At other tables, after a similar lead, declarer led a trump from hand.

East captured West's ten with the jack, and there was no way for West to gain the lead to give partner a diamond ruff.

At this table, too, declarer led a trump at the second trick, but West inserted the queen, executing a "Crocodile Coup" to swallow partner's jack. Now West was able to lead another diamond. East dutifully ruffed with the ace, and West still had to get two trump tricks for down one.

The "Crocodile Coup" is not an unusual beast. More often, however, it occurs in a side suit. To see an example in the trump suit is a rarity, so Terraneo is a worthy winner of the defensive award.

Courier, Sampras clash in final

HONG KONG (Agencies) — World number two Jim Courier has a chance to avenge himself in the final of the Hong Kong Open against Pete Sampras, the man who stole his number one position two weeks ago.

The clash of the two Americans should provide a dream final for the \$300,000 event here Sunday.

In the semi-finals Saturday, defending champion Courier easily defeated fellow-American Michael Chang 6-2, 6-3, while Sampras struggled to beat Amos Mansdorf 2-6, 7-6, 7-6.

Before arriving in Hong Kong, top seeded Courier had a miserable fortnight in Japan, losing in the semi-finals in Osaka and in the third round in Tokyo.

He started the week here complaining of tiredness, but he was in good spirits after taking 93 minutes to overwhelm local favourite Chang.

The 22-year-old Floridian was completely at ease as he rushed to a 3-0 lead by breaking Chang's first service game, and never looked in danger.

"I'm looking forward to tomorrow. I'm playing much better than I did in Japan," said a contented Courier.

Sampras, the second seed here, was given a big scare by Mansdorf, ranked 30, before prevailing in three sets.

After an interruption for rain, Sampras found the winners under pressure to take the second two sets, both on a tie-break.

Basuki overwhirls Fendick: Indonesian Yayuk Basuki scorched past top seed Patty Fendick to reach the final of the Women's Open Saturday.

The eighth seeded Basuki, who lost to Fendick in Tokyo last week, triumphed 6-4 6-0 with a magnificent performance played

in blistering heat.

The first set was fiercely competitive, with Fendick often beating Basuki with the sheer power of her shots, while Basuki had the stronger serve and volley game.

But the Indonesian sneaked the first set as Fendick double-faulted under pressure, and then pulled away to take the second set in some style.

"Everything in my game has been working so good his week that I felt no pressure playing her," Basuki said afterwards.

"I learned a lot from losing to her in Tokyo and played really smart. I didn't hit hard but placed the ball well."

Basuki will play unseeded Marianne Werdel in Sunday's final after the American defeated fourth-seeded Stephanie Rottier of the Netherlands 6-2 6-1 in a surprisingly one-seeded encounter.

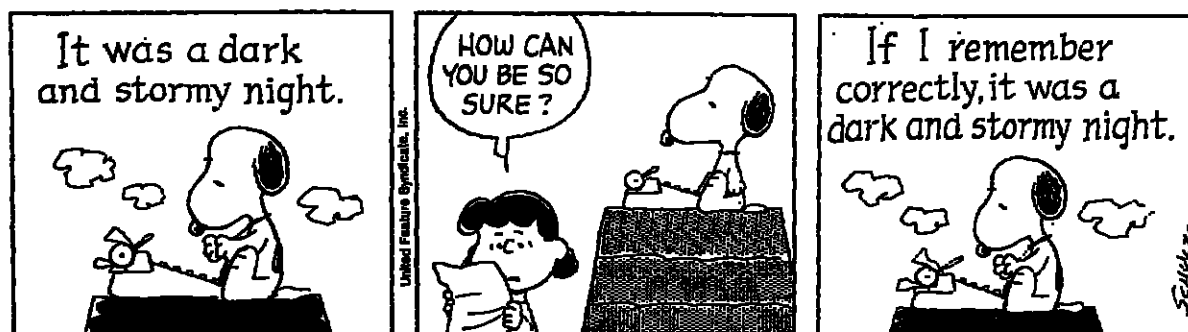
Arsenal, Wednesday bid for English cup history

LONDON (AFP) — Arsenal and Sheffield Wednesday open their campaigns Sunday to become the first club to capture both English cups in the same season when they meet in the League Cup final.

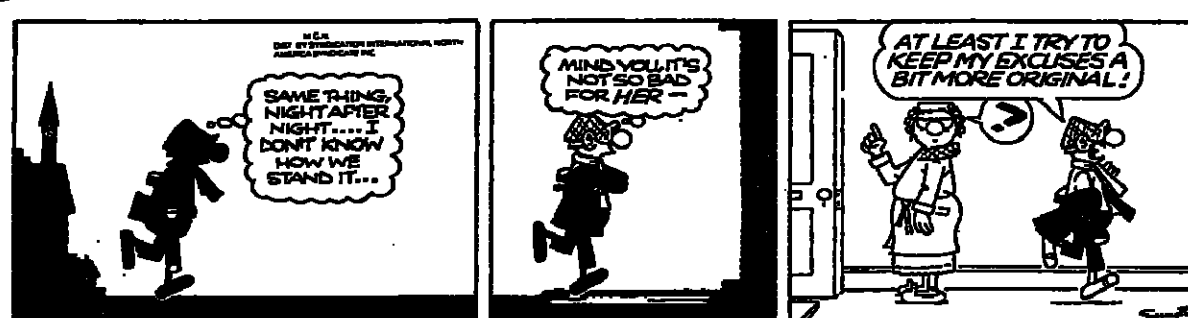
In an intriguing clash of cultures, Wednesday will bring style and sophistication to Wembley through ex-England winger Chris Waddle. Eire playmaker John Sheridan and American showman John Harbes.

Wednesday player-manager Trevor Francis promised: "Whatever happens, we're going to Wembley to play our football."

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY APRIL 18, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A great day to get busy and organize your life in such a fashion that you will be able to achieve a great deal that is practical. Avoid a temptation toward wishful thinking and daydreaming.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You find a new approach at some consistent goal that has been yours early brings fine results; then carry through without making further changes.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Your family is receptive in the daytime to what you most desire but later on some tensions can arise unless you make a point to be diplomatic.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Communicate with outside allies to get their viewpoints in the morning while afterwards you find it difficult to put your views across easily.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You see how to gain more benefits from whatever tasks you are doing or plan to do, then drop the financial part and do the actual job.

LEO: (July 22 August 21) This is the morning to go after what you want that has long been anticipated by you and bring to yourself while tonight be muted in personal requests.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You see ways to do what will increase the harmony beneath your

own roof during the early hours of the day but later look to your own problems.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You can make real progress towards attaining your long range objectives after breakfast, then carry through with duties required until they work out well.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Get out into whatever public activity awaits your attention after which it is advisable you use care in anything of community, civil nature.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Your ability to tune in on what is best for you is excellent in the morning but later use your mature judgment in whatever arises.

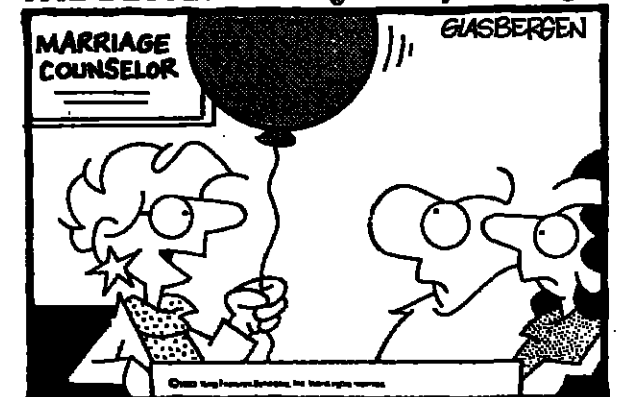
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 19) Give your attachment a pat on the back or words of encouragement in the morning and later show your devotion in some helpful overt act.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) A generous outsider can be helpful to you early but later it will be necessary that you rely more upon your own judgment and resources.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) More attractiveness placed in your environment early makes it easier for you to operate harmoniously there so get busy, do so right away.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Glasbergen



"Next time you get mad at each other inhale this balloon. It's hard to argue with a Munchkin voice."

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold.

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

DORBO

YEVAH

KAUMPE

HAWRTT

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: NOISE AIDED BURIAL CRABBY

Answer: Outlaw groups that always wind up stretching their luck—"ROBBERS BANDS"

THE Daily Crossword by Bernice Gordon

ACROSS

1 Robert of the

5 Pardon

10 "Regard"

14 Of an age

15 Zola

16 Say it isn't so

17 Tail

19 Shade of green

20 Adversary

21 Stranded

22 Prepare for a

23 Cad

25 On the move

29 Singing voice

32 Millau for

33 Rue — Paris

34 Watch holder

35 Chinook salmon

36 Get out of bed

37 Simplicity

38 Simon's couple

39 Lisa

40 French river

41 Extending

44 Squandered

45 Family circle

46 Birme

47 Birme

48 Birme

49 Birme

50 Birme

51 Birme

52 Birme

53 Birme

54 Birme

55 Birme

Economy

ASIAN FINANCIAL MARKET

HOUSING BANK CREDIT: ARABIAN - RUSSIAN:
TELEPHONE: 660170 / 663170
ORGANIZED MARKET RATE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 17/04/1993

COMPANY'S NAME

	TRADING PRICE	WOLING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK					
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	187.75	181.50	183.75	137.75	
BANK OF JORDAN	15.680	8.900	4.900	4.900	
BANK OF EAST JORDAN	20.925	24.500	24.500	24.750	
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	3.487	1.600	1.270		
THE HOUSING BANK	98.114	3.850	3.870	3.940	
ARAB BANK FOR INVESTMENT	6.840	3.490			
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	9.545	2.270	2.260	2.250	
JORDAN SECURITIES BANK	5.907	5.450	5.500	5.500	
BUSINESS BANK	4.781	4.230	4.900	4.250	
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	9.999	2.180	1.180	3.200	
ARAB BANK FOR INVESTMENT	8.170	2.050	2.050	2.050	
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	85.772	8.200	8.200	8.200	
PHILADELPHIA CORPORATION/JORDAN	3.445	3.140	2.530	1.680	
PHILADELPHIA CORPORATION	3.445	3.140	2.530	1.680	
ABAHAM ASSURANCE	26.372	1.260	1.340	1.740	
JORDAN AMARA INSURANCE	13.070	4.000			
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	1.183	1.570	2.480	1.390	
JORDAN LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	249.295	3.960	3.960	3.960	
JORDAN ELECTRIC POWER	9.987	2.000	2.000	2.000	
JORDAN POWER & TOWNSHIP	96.673	2.170	2.200	2.160	
JORDAN DISTRICT ELECTRICITY	2.114	6.000	6.000	6.000	
ARAB INTERNATIONAL BANK	18.887	1.300	1.300	1.340	
JORDAN TOWNSHIP & BANK COMPLEX	8.400	5.400	5.400	5.400	
NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS	132	0.900	0.940	0.650	
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	34.42	1.900	1.900	1.900	
JORDAN GROUP REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	7.560	1.600	1.600	1.750	
ENTERPRISES & EQUIPMENT LEASING	155.086	0.720	0.720	0.760	
INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	6.000	1.110	1.060	1.060	
MACROBANK	368	1.850	1.470	1.470	
JORDAN PRESS CORPORATION / ALMA	9.560	2.300	1.250	1.340	
JORDAN MULTIPLE EAST COAST	3.200	1.200	1.200	1.200	
ADVANCED CENTER, MATERIAL MANUFACTURING	28.575	2.210	2.210	2.210	
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	1.140	900	1.000	1.000	
JORDAN PROSPECT MINES	58.588	1.670	1.910	1.910	
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	22.284	4.000	4.000	4.000	
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	22.284	1.000	1.200	1.200	
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	90.293	2.410	2.510	2.510	
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	23.115	2.000	2.000	2.000	
ARAB MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES	6.480	9.000	9.000	9.200	
JORDAN CERAMIC INDUSTRIES	9.475	2.410	2.510	2.510	
JORDAN PAPER & CARBOARD FACTORIES	2.850	6.200	6.200	6.200	
ARAB CERAMIC INDUSTRIES	48.950	9.000	9.000	9.000	
ARAB CERAMIC INDUSTRIES INDUSTRIES	7.950	3.150	3.250	3.180	
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	14.020	1.200	1.200	1.200	
JORDAN GLASS INDUSTRIES	13.925	3.320	3.920	1.450	
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	11.210	0.700	1.000	2.100	
JORDAN DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	303.741	13.400	12.950	13.230	
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	3.340	1.340			
ARAB INVESTMENT INDUSTRY	202.270	13.300	13.400	13.500	
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	10.860	0.860	0.850	0.810	
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	79.520	1.900	1.900	1.900	
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	1.932	0.510	0.500	0.510	
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRY	13.728	5.900	5.900	5.900	
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	10.476	0.860	0.870	0.860	
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	1.407	0.740	0.740	0.740	
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	22.076	2.740	2.740	2.740	
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	3.336	2.290	1.250	1.250	
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	9.360	0.490	0.490	0.490	
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	9.260	0.490	0.490	0.490	
NATIONAL CABLE & MANUFACTURING	478.280	8.940	8.940	8.940	
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	13.335	4.720	1.950	1.900	
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	14.020	1.200	1.200	1.200	
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	165.911	0.890	1.890	1.890	
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	138.643	5.090	1.090	1.090	

GRAND

755

Yemen pins hopes on higher revenues from oil, investment

AMMAN (R) — Yemen's economy will begin to improve next year as increased oil revenues offset the strain caused by over a million workers forced to return home after the Gulf crisis, Labour Minister Abdul Rahim Dhaiban said.

"Our expectations are that by 1994-95 the economy will improve as oil production revenue grows with further exploration and new investment starting now begins to show results," he told Reuters in an interview.

He said however it would take years to recover completely from the economic shock of the return of 700,000 workers and their families, who had provided about \$2 billion in remittances before Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Most of the workers were shopkeepers driven out of Saudi Arabia because of Yemen's pro-Iraq stance during the crisis.

Mr. Dhaiban said their return was expected to widen a 1991-92 budget deficit of 8 billion riyals (\$1.2 billion) to over 20 billion riyals (\$1.6 billion) in 1992-93.

But he said Yemen was pinning its hopes mainly on higher oil revenues and investment to absorb the long-term effects of the sudden influx of mostly unskilled workers with few savings.

He said total oil production was expected to rise to 320,000 barrels per day (b/d) by September from a current 250,000 b/d as

a new pipeline project in the Masila field in Haeramarwt province was completed.

Mr. Dhaiban estimated the current jobless rate at about 27 per cent. He said more than 24 foreign oil companies were engaged in exploration and production in Yemen and the rapidly expanding oil sector was the most promising area for employment.

He did not give a comparative figure.

A recent decision to establish the port of Aden as a free zone along with investment policies now in place should create more job opportunities over the next few years, he added.

Mr. Dhaiban said the government had so far spent around \$33 million of a \$60 million World Bank-funded project to encourage investment in industries including agriculture and fisheries.

He said the government had taken a series of measures to create jobs, including revising investment laws last year to make it easier to establish businesses in Yemen.

"So far over 200 projects with a total capital of 20 billion Yemeni riyals (\$1.6 billion) have been set up, some of it from (other) Arab and foreign investors," he said.

But he said hardship among the returnees existed two years after the Gulf war, with about 100,000 of them still living in tents mainly in the Hadaydah region near the Red Sea.

Kuwait puts brakes on consumer loans

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's central bank said Saturday it had slammed the brakes on growing commercial bank consumer lending to avoid damage to the economy.

Governor Salem Abdul Aziz Al Sabah listed seven previously unannounced curbs he imposed in March including one forbidding any bank's consumer lending to exceed 10 per cent of its private sector deposits.

Sheikh Salem, in a statement replying to questions from Reuters, gave no explanation for the curbs, which apply to consumer loans to individuals that are repaid monthly.

But a central bank official, who would not be named, said the bank was concerned that the "sheer amount of consumer lending was building to a point where it was affecting the economy."

"The bank decided to slam the brakes on the commercial banks' capacity to build up consumer debt," he added.

Most consumer loans in Kuwait are for personal consumption goods such as cars and furniture.

Latest central bank figures show personal consumer lending by the banks rose in two months to November by 13 million dinars (\$400 million) to 423 million (\$1.39 billion).

Consumer loans have been one of the most profitable areas of a stagnant banking sector since the liberation from Iraqi occupation two years ago, with the banks hamstringing by \$20 billion in bad debts mostly from the 1982 col-

lapse of an unofficial stock market.

Commercial banks currently charge consumer loans at around 12.5 per cent, a healthy spread set against the 8.5 per cent they pay for funds from the central bank in each other.

A commercial bank economist said he believed the curbs would merely foil lending by non-banking institutions such as specialist car loan companies and other credit firms outside central bank control.

The economist, who declined to be identified, said that with the government set to cut overseas spending, consumer loans remained an important catalyst for economic activity.

Sheikh Salem said in his statement the aggregate total of all bank's consumer loans would be limited to 10 per cent of private sector deposits as represented by current accounts, cash deposits, savings and time deposits accounts.

The customer would have to submit documents to satisfy the bank the loan had been used for the purpose specified and would have to declare to the lending bank all his other outstanding financial obligations.

Each repayment instalment should not exceed 25 per cent of the consumer's monthly salary.

Customers may obtain more than one loan provided total repayment instalments do not exceed 50 per cent of the borrower's monthly salary.

AMF chief sees signs of Arab economic recovery

Economic Recovery

DAMASCUS (R) — A leading Arab economist expressed hopes Friday for a better economic performance in the Arab World in 1993.

Osama Jaffar Al Faqeh, director-general of the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF), told Reuters signs of recovery started last year, after the Gulf crisis, which he said cost Arabs more than \$670 billion.

"Most of the money spent on the Gulf war was withdrawn from assets which Arabs had been counting on to help improve their economies," Mr. Faqeh said.

Gulf states, especially Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, paid most of the costs of a U.S.-led operation to drive Iraqi forces from Kuwait in 1991.

The AMF chief said the recovery was seen in a decline in inflation rates and balance of payments deficits.

He said many Arab states had started to implement economic reforms and were keen to improve cooperation to counter Western economic blocs.

But he warned that Arab imports were growing faster than exports and that terms of trade were changing in favour of the West and against oil producers.

Revival and reform were most evident in the Gulf oil producing states, but Morocco and Tunisia had "restored their internal and external financial balance and increased their economic productivity," the AMF chief said.

He said Egypt and Jordan had also improved their economies by liberalising exchange rates.

Mr. Faqeh said protectionist policies in the West and the creation of the new cartels posed a real threat to Arab states, which would be left uncompetitive in world markets.

Speaking about activities of his fund, Mr. Faqeh said loans by the AMF from the start of operations in 1978 until the end of 1992 totalled 580 million accounting in dinars (\$2.4 billion).

He said the AMF had amended its lending policies to enable it to engage in other activities and handle the investment of some Arab assets.

This allowed the bank to hand out \$636 million in 1992 in favour of several Arab monetary institutions and other specialised agencies, he said.

But Mr. Faqeh said a problem of arrears facing the fund has severely affected the AMF's activities.

"The arrears problem is a big obstacle to the fund's ability to rally its resources for lending," he said.

"Total arrears including interest to the end of March have increased to around 47 per cent of the fund's resources," he said.

Iraq, Sudan and Somalia were suspended last April, giving them two years to pay up or loose their membership.

The Kuwait-based Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development decided at its meeting in Damascus Thursday to suspend the same three states for the same reason.

French flour exporters see Egypt sales up

CAIRO (R) — French flour exporters have aggressively positioned themselves in Egypt over the past few months and hope this year will be the best. Exports in last year's 320,000 tonnes, an exporter has said.

Jean Manuel Leveque, a representative of the French exporting syndicate SYMEX, told Reuters French sales had reached 150,000 tonnes so far this year, subsidised at an average rate of about 93 ECU's (\$113) a tonne by the European Community.

Egypt imported 469,000 tonnes in 1991, about nine per cent of the world market worth about \$100 million at current market values. Figures for 1992 were not available.

French exporters, who rentered the Egyptian market in force late last year after a trough of several years, are hoping for a bigger share of a larger flour market.

The government allowed the private sector to start importing flour in December and has been using its strong cash position to diversify away from traditional reliance on U.S. wheat and flour.

French exporters have also mounted a public relations campaign to convince government buyers and bakers to import flour rather than mill imported wheat.

Clinton gives Miyazawa blunt message on trade

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton Friday expressed deep concern to Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa about "inadequate" U.S. access to Japan's markets and called for "rebalancing of our relationship."

Mr. Clinton was unusually blunt in calling for a "new partnership" to help reduce the \$49 billion trade surplus Japan enjoys with the United States.

"I stressed to the prime minister that I'm particularly concerned about Japan's growing global current account and trade deficits and am deeply concerned about the inadequate market access for American firms, products and investors in Japan," Mr. Clinton said at a news conference after the talks.

"The simple fact is that it is harder to sell in Japan's market than in ours. America is accepting the challenge of change and so too must Japan," he pointed out.

It was Clinton's first meeting with Mr. Miyazawa since he became president three months ago and ushered in a tougher approach to U.S.-Japanese relations than that of former President George Bush.

"I stressed that the rebalancing of our relationship in this new era requires an elevated attention to our economic relations that must begin with an honest appraisal of each country and our mutual responsibilities," Mr. Clinton said.

Mr. Miyazawa said he agreed on the need for "continuing efforts to increase market access." But he expressed a "serious concern" over some trends in the United States — a reference to increasing calls for protectionism.

"I stressed to the president that our economic prosperity is founded on our unique economic interdependence: We must nurture this relationship with a cooperative spirit," he said, adding that this "cannot be realised by managed trade."

Mr. Clinton and Mr. Miyazawa said they had agreed to develop a new framework to address bilateral trade problems, but differences remained on its form.

"In terms of how you get those results, there are still things to be hashed out and differences." But I consider that to be a significant move forward, that we at least have agreed on the conceptual framework in which we will deal with these problems," Mr. Clinton told reporters after meeting with Mr. Miyazawa.

Speaking at a joint news conference, both men said they hoped to have a framework for talks in place within three months.

"How to develop the new framework or which sectors to be included will be discussed on the working level from now on," a Japanese official said.

Turkey aims to market Central Asian gold

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkey is to set up a gold exchange and refinery in the hope of marketing gold from the Central Asian republics of the former Soviet Union, a senior Turkish government official has said.

"By setting up a gold refinery and gold exchange" in Istanbul, Turkey plans to refine and sell the gold produced in the Central Asian republics to world markets," State Minister Tansu Ciller told a meeting in Istanbul.

Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan are rich in gold, oil and other minerals.

Ms. Ciller said the move was part of a plan to make Istanbul a regional gold trading centre and that the republics had shown interest in the idea.

A gold exchange, she said, would be set up in the coming days with its headquarters in a traditional site, possibly the famed Istanbul covered bazaar.

She said Turkey expected to earn \$4 billion annually from international gold trade once the refinery was established.

A group of Istanbul jewellers announced plans earlier this year to set up a gold refinery to process up to 100 tonnes a year, primarily from the former Soviet Union.

Gulf Arab states urged to build magnesium plant

DUBAI (R) — The six Gulf Arab states have been urged by their own industrial consultancy to set up a magnesium plant to meet growing regional demand, United Arab Emirates (UAE) newspapers have reported.

A feasibility study by the Qatar-based Gulf Organisation Industrial Consulting (GOIC) suggested Saudi Arabia with its low energy costs as the most suitable site for a 10,000 tonnes per year capacity plant, the newspapers said.

Magnesium is a strong, light metal used in aluminium alloys

such as cans, in furnaces and in the automobile industry.

The GOIC, an offshoot of the Gulf Cooperation Council which includes Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates, said it would cost \$2,880 to produce a tonne of magnesium locally compared with a world price of about \$3,400.


The study, circulated to GCC governments, suggested Qatar and Oman as alternative sites for the proposed \$1.93 billion plant if they could match low Saudi energy costs.

Rabat expects to collect \$1.33b from privatisation

RABAT (R) — Morocco hopes to get up to 12 billion dirhams (\$1.33 billion) from the sale of 112 companies in a privatisation programme, the commerce minister has said.

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CURLE SUE
Shows: 12:30, 3:15

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Currency	New York Close Date: 15/4/1993	New York Close Date: 16/4/1993
Sterling Pound*	1.5410	1.5250
Deutsche Mark	1.6060	1.6175
Swiss Franc	1.4667	1.4825
French Franc	5.4275	5.4645
Japanese Yen	113.12	112.20
European Currency Unit	1.2175**	1.2050

* USD Per ECU
 ** European Operating @ 8:00 a.m. GMT

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.06	3.12	3.18	3.43
Sterling Pound	5.90	5.94	5.94	6.00
Deutsche Mark	8.13	7.75	7.50	6.81
Swiss Franc	5.18	4.93	4.73	4.37
French Franc	9.20	8.75	8.37	7.87
Japanese Yen	3.18	3.18	3.25	3.31
European Currency Unit	9.00	8.93	8.50	7.81

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Metal	USD/Oz	GIN/Gm⁺	Metal	USD/Oz	GIN/Gm
Gold	328.45	6.60	Silver	3.93	.090

* 21 Rates		
Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin		
	Dattas: 17/14/1993	
Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6870	0.6890
Sterling Pound	1.0467	1.0519
Deutsche Mark	0.4245	0.4266
Swiss Franc	0.4629	0.4652
French Franc	0.1254	0.1262
Japanese Yen*	0.6120	0.6151
Dutch Guilder	0.3777	0.3796
Swedish Krona	0.0911	0.0916
Italian Lira*	0.0445	0.0447
Belgian Franc	0.02062	0.02072

Other Currencies		Date: 7/14/1993
Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8040	1.8410
Lebanese Lira*	0.0370	0.0420
Saudi Riyal	0.1825	0.1843
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2350	2.2800
Qatari Riyal	0.1863	0.1882
Egyptian Pound	0.1950	0.2180
Omani Riyal	1.7580	1.7820
UAE Dirham	0.1863	0.1882
Greek Drachma*	0.3130	0.3209
Cypriot Pound	1.4100	1.4340

Index	7/4/1993	Close	14/4/1993	Close
All-Share		194.96		192.95
Banking Sector		134.80		134.19
Insurance Sector		214.47		212.12
Industry Sector		275.45		274.91
Services Sector		267.31		261.19

U.N.: Serbs, Muslims locked in heavy fighting near Srebrenica

GENEVA (Agencies) — Advancing Serb forces and Muslim defenders are locked in heavy fighting near the besieged Bosnian town of Srebrenica which has come under heavy shelling, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said Saturday.

"U.N. staff on the ground have reported heavy fighting and small arms fire to the east and south-east. About one to two kilometres from the centre of Srebrenica," UNHCR spokeswoman Sylvia Foa told Reuters. "There is also heavy shelling of the town and the staff feel the Serbs are on the offensive."

Ms. Foa said a U.N. military observers' post in Srebrenica, which is housed in a post office, had been hit by an artillery shell, but there were no casualties.

A UNHCR aid convoy heading for Srebrenica has turned back because of reports of heavy shelling there.

An amateur radio operator in Srebrenica told reporters in Sarajevo of hand-to-hand fighting in the old town, with dead and wounded lying in the streets.

In New York, the U.N. Security Council earlier declared the town a safe zone, ordering the Serb rebels to pull back, to save 60,000 civilians sheltering there.

A U.N. aid convoy whose mission to the besieged town of Srebrenica was foiled by renewed artillery attacks there turned back toward Belgrade Saturday, the U.N. spokeswoman said.

The UNHCR spokeswoman said rock-throwing teenagers had injured two drivers in the nine-truck convoy, one of whom was in hospital for treatment.

It was still unclear when the U.N. agency might mount another convoy for Srebrenica.

"I think we will just have to wait and see what happens in the next few days," the spokeswoman told Reuters.

The Security Council has declared Srebrenica a haven for Bosnian Muslims, demanding that Bosnian Serbs halt their onslaught.

The Serbs were reported within 1,000 metres of the enclave in eastern Bosnia, and some news reports had said earlier that Serbs had taken the town. U.N. diplomats, however, said that the Serbs apparently did not move in.

"The fall of Srebrenica to the Bosnian Serb forces would have been a disaster," Security Council President Jamsheed Marker of Pakistan told reporters early Saturday.

The resolution approved by all 15 Council members Friday included no enforcement provisions and served as little more than a threat.

The Council would meet immediately to tighten sanctions on the Serbs' sponsors in the Yugoslav Republic of Serbia if Srebrenica falls, a Security Council ambassador said on condition of anonymity.

Friday's resolution reaffirmed the Security Council's condemnation of the Serbs' "ethnic cleans-

ing" removal from contested areas, of Bosnian Muslims and interference with relief convoys.

Before the vote, Mr. Marker said the U.N. decision-making body hoped that when the Council passed the resolution "the Bosnian Serbs (will) show restraint."

Meanwhile the Bosnian Serb commander, General Ratko Mladic, and his Bosnian army counterpart, General Sefer Halilovic, arrived around midday at Sarajevo Airport, and later went into face-to-face talks there, said U.N. Protection Force spokesman Commander Barry Frewer.

General Lars-Eric Wahlgren, commander of U.N. Protection Forces in the former Yugoslavia, said: "The latest U.N. resolution will be the basis for discussions."

That was a reference to a U.N. Security Council resolution calling for Srebrenica to be declared a safe zone free from all attack.

For his part Gen. Mladic said: "I expect to find a practical solution."

Gen. Wahlgren and General Philippe Morillon, U.N. peacekeeping commander for Bosnia-Herzegovina, at first shuttled between the two sides, said Commander Frewer, before they met face-to-face. With Gen. Wahlgren in the chair, the parties sat down on opposite sides of a U-shaped hollow table, UNPROFOR sources said.

Commander Frewer also confirmed an advance party of Canadian troops sent to Srebrenica but blocked by Serb forces, has arrived back at its base in Tuzla, to

the northeast of the enclave.

In a separate development, a spokesman for British Prime Minister John Major said Saturday Britain and France are searching "by all possible means" to stop the Serbian assault on Srebrenica.

"We are seeking by all possible means, including through Lord Owen, the EC (European Community) peace envoy, and the Russians, to maximise pressure on Serbs to halt their attack on Srebrenica," the spokesman said.

He was speaking after a telephone call between Mr. Major and French President Francois Mitterrand.

Britain and France will back a United Nations Security Council resolution strengthening sanctions against Serbia, the spokesman said.

If the United Nations Security Council does not adopt the resolution this weekend, the vote could take place at the beginning of the week, Mr. Major's spokesman said.

France was even more vociferous Saturday in its condemnation of the Serbian assault on Srebrenica. Alain Juppe, the French Foreign Minister, said Serbia was "mocking the international community" and called for its total isolation.

"We demand today (Saturday) that the United Nations Security Council vote in as soon as possible a resolution that totally isolates Serbia from the rest of the world," Mr. Juppe said during an interview on French television.



Students and academics from the University of the Western Cape, marched in the streets of the white municipality of Belville near Cape Town in protest at Chris Hani's death (AFP photo)

2 black ANC demonstrators shot dead

VANDERBILTPARK, South Africa (AFP) — A white gunman shot dead two black ANC demonstrators and seriously wounded a third Saturday as they protested the murder of Communist leader Chris Hani.

Some 3,000 marchers were walking back to minibuses on the north side of the town after a protest in the town centre, and were just passing the last houses when the gunman opened fire.

Driving a blue car at walking pace amid a column of police armoured cars shadowing the march, the gunman stopped towards the tail of the procession and fired three shots across the central reservation.

All three bullets found their target from a distance of around 10 metres. One victim was hit in the head, and another was hit in the chest. Police covered both bodies. The injured man was carried away in an ambulance.

A police monitor from the

Wits Regional Peace Committee, which brokers peace arrangements around Johannesburg in terms of the September 1991 National Peace Accord, ran up to the car immediately after the shooting and banged on the passenger window, as the gunman sat impassively inside.

Then police stormed the car, smashed the driver's window, opened the door and dragged out the gunman, a bearded white man in his late 40s.

About 30 seconds before the shooting, a group of around 10 uniformed members of the neo-fascist Afrikaner Resistance Movement (AWB) who had been following the gunman's car stopped in their tracks.

Most of the marchers, in a jubilant mood after they had handed over a petition at the local police station, were unaware of the bloodshed some 800 metres behind them.

Despite a stand-off with

around 100 armed AWB members in the town centre, African National Congress (ANC) marshals had reined in the few marchers that had swapped taunts with the right-wingers.

After the shooting some 300 marchers stayed behind, more in shock than in anger.

The shooting is bound to inflame passions still further ahead of Mr. Hani's funeral Monday.

Mr. Hani, 50, the hugely popular secretary-general of the South African Communist Party, was shot dead in the driveway of his home at Boksburg east of here last Saturday, by an immigrant white supremacist from Poland who is in police custody.

More than 100,000 people are expected at a stadium on the outskirts of Johannesburg's black township Soweto Sunday for his lying-in-state, and for the funeral near Boksburg Monday.

Angry blacks waving their fists massed outside police headquar-

Nazarbayev sees CIS nucleus forming

MOSCOW (R) — Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev said Saturday he envisaged seven states forming a nucleus for closer cooperation within the 10-member Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

"I very much hope it will happen in the middle of May. It is important that we tell the people what we have arrived at," he told a news conference in Moscow.

Mr. Nazarbayev was speaking on his way back to Kazakhstan from Friday's CIS summit in the Belarusian capital Minsk, where leaders failed to adopt his proposals for closer voluntary cooperation but favoured preserving the troubled grouping.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin served notice Friday that states such as Ukraine, Moldova, and Turkmenistan which have failed to sign the proposed CIS statutes would be shut out from cooperation.

"Let's call a spade a spade. He who does not sign the statutes will in effect remain outside the main channel of cooperation within the framework of the Commonwealth, with all the consequences that stem from that," he said.

Asked which countries might

form the proposed nucleus, Nazarbayev named those that have ratified the CIS founding statutes — Russia, Kazakhstan, Belarus, Uzbekistan, Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

The CIS was created in December 1991 on the ruins of the Soviet Union, but has failed to live up to expectations despite numerous summits and 287 agreements on issues ranging from collective security to cooperation in banking and finance.

Many of them have not been implemented and significant political, military and economic differences remain. Azerbaijan dropped out last year, reducing the membership from 11 to 10.

Nazarbayev called for steps to increase political stability in the entire region, stronger economic links, a financial and currency union, coordinated credit and budget policies and effective collective security mechanisms.

Russia's RIA news agency quoted him as saying examples of closer cooperation could be the removal of customs barriers by May 15 or the creation of a single currency zone by May 20.

"There is a group of states that

have signed the statutes which are ready for closer cooperation," he said, adding that other states might need more time to determine their stance.

Ukraine is one of the CIS states most suspicious of supranational structures it fears could infringe on its sovereignty and be dominated by Moscow. It wants economic cooperation only.

Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk voiced support for the grouping Friday, but ruled out his country's participation in a military union. This idea is also opposed by Belarusian leader Stanislav Shushkevich, who favours stronger economic ties.

Mr. Kravchuk said at a joint news conference he favoured a single currency — a statement Mr. Nazarbayev took to mean support for a rouble zone.

Ukraine is pushing ahead with plans to introduce its own currency, the hryvnia, and has already left the rouble zone.

Mr. Nazarbayev said CIS heads of government and experts would meet on April 28 to discuss his proposals for closer cooperation ahead of the next meeting of presidents in May.

Angolan rivals reach accord in principle

ABIDJAN (R) — Angola's government and UNITA rebels reached an agreement in principle to share power in the southern African country and the head of the UNITA delegation said he believed a ceasefire was attainable.

A joint statement issued during peace talks in Abidjan, capital of Ivory Coast, said the government agreed to improve a 1992 offer of minor government posts for UNITA members.

The government of the Republic of Angola and UNITA have agreed that "the principle of a larger participation of UNITA in the governmental executive at the national, provincial and local levels is accepted," the statement said.

UNITA delegation head Jorge Valentim said specific posts would be negotiated later but would have to be positions of real influence.

"There are key ministries... prime minister, minister of defence, minister of the interior, minister of foreign affairs, minister of interior administration, all those posts. They should look at some of them for UNITA."

The two sides, joined at most sessions by U.N. mediators and U.S., Russian and Portuguese observers, spent the week seeking general points of agreement.

Azeris counterattack in Karabakh

MOSCOW (AFP) — Azerbaijani forces launched a big counterattack against Armenian troops Saturday after a week that saw the Yerevan government expand the conflict deeper into Azeri territory.

Azerbaijani forces attacked the Omar Col, which controls access to Kelbajar, seized by the Armenians this week and inside Azeri territory, the press service of the pro-independence authorities in Nagorno-Karabakh reported.

Nagorno-Karabakh is an Armenian-populated enclave within Azerbaijan and the source of the five-year war with Armenia.

Azeri forces were driven out of Kelbajar early in April by Karabakh "self-defence units." Saturday's offensive was taking place in an area of snow-packed peaks up to 4,000 metres.

The press service in the Karabakh capital of Stepanakert also said 30 Azeri soldiers were killed and five Armenians wounded during an Azerbaijani offensive from Fizuli, a military base south-east of Nagorno-Karabakh. The Armenians captured a tank as the Azeris retreated, the report said.

The escalating conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan threatens to bring such powers as Russia, Turkey, Iran and Iraq into a region that could explode and see its borders change.

The Armenians expanded the conflict this week by shelling Fizuli and Agdam, two villages in

eastern Nagorno-Karabakh that also serve as the main bases for Azeri forces in the region. These moves are seen by some observers as an Armenian effort to strengthen their position before the opening of negotiations sponsored by the Conference of Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).

Edufraz Elchibey, president of Azerbaijan, denounced what he called Armenia's "rampant expansionism" which uses the "argument of self-determination as a way of applying political pressure and the carving up of states."

Armenia has expanded the conflict beyond Azerbaijan's Nagorno-Karabakh to other areas in southern Azerbaijan, a move it could not even contemplate without Russian backing, political observers said.

In Stepanakert, Russian trucks and helicopters not only unload food stuffs and gasoline, but also spawning new anti-tank guns.

Baku's protector is Ankara, sharing the same language and religion. Turkey's politicians have threatened to send military aid to help their Muslim neighbour. But a Russian division that guards the border between Armenia and Turkey has rendered Ankara's words hollow.

Azerbaijan has a spark of hope that the Americans may back their position. U.S. President Bill Clinton recently condemned Armenia's taking of Kelbajar and

demanding their withdrawal in a personal message to Mr. Elchibey cited Friday by the Azeri Turan News Agency.

The independent authorities in Stepanakert as well as Armenia's Defence Minister insist that the "old borders of the Soviet empire," which the West called the "people's prison" during the cold war, "should be redrawn following the lines of the 'people's right to self-determination.' They insist that "Armenia's borders will be pushed just up to the Araxes River, the border between Azerbaijan and Iran."

Meanwhile, the Azerbaijan army's former chief of staff, Chaim Musayev, was arrested Friday in Baku, according to the Armenian News Agency Snark citing Azeri Television. Gen. Musayev is blamed for losing several key towns, particularly the Lachin corridor which links Armenia with Nagorno-Karabakh.

Meanwhile Azeri Interior Minister Iskender Gamidov, a fiery nationalist and hardliner in Azerbaijan's territorial dispute with Armenia, has resigned, local news agencies said Friday.

Turan News Agency said he quit Thursday night and had already cleared his office. Khazar-Servis Agency said he would be replaced by the military commandant of Baku, police Major-General Abdullah Allahverdijev.

Young Charlotte Bronte was no good at grammar

LONDON (R) — Charlotte Bronte, author of English literary classic Jane Eyre, would have fallen short of proposed new standards in British schools, the Guardian newspaper said Saturday. The Guardian said Bronte, who ranks with sisters Emily and Anne among the most important literary figures of the 19th century, was no good at grammar as a child. A faded entry in an old school register recently handed to the Cumbria Record Office in the northern English town of Kendal, gave the following verdict on the eight-year-old Charlotte Bronte's academic performance: "Reads tolerably. Writes indifferently... knows nothing of grammar, geography, history or accomplishments." The new proposals, drawn up by the National Curriculum Council, include a greater emphasis on basic grammar, punctuation and diction and a compulsory reading list that includes Jane Eyre for 11-14 year olds.

Prince William shoots rabbits and sets off a storm

LONDON (R) — Prince William, the 10-year-old son of heir to the throne Prince Charles, angered animal rights groups by shooting rabbits on a hunting trip, newspapers reported Saturday. "Wild shoots bunnies," read the front page banner headline in the tabloid daily Sun newspaper. Today newspaper referred to the prince as "shotgun William" and said he was "clearly delighted" with the trip. The paper said Friday's hunting trip at the Scottish royal residence of Balmoral, where Prince William was staying with his father, was the young prince's first foray into blood sports. Royal watchers were quoted as saying the prince, accompanied by a boy of about the same age, left Balmoral with two detectives and several gamekeepers. Shots were heard and the group returned with a haul of about six dead rabbits. "At Balmoral there should be plenty of things to do other than killing animals," an animal concern spokesman said. "I don't think his mother would be pleased."

Farmer burns down home in protest at tax bill

LONDON (R) — Farmer Fred Martin was so angry when he got a £225 (£360) tax demand on his isolated cottage that he burned it down rather than pay. The ramshackle, three-room chalet in remote moorlands of northeast England had no electricity, water or gas connections. But local government officials insisted it was still subject to a property-based council tax that came into force on April 1. Divorced Fred, 45, this week splashed the rooms with paraffin. In the tax demand and threw it inside. "It was one way of telling them to go to blazes," he said.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Building collapse kills 200 in N. Korea

SEOUL (R) — A high-rise building under construction in the North Korean capital Pyongyang collapsed last month killing about 200 soldiers, South Korea's Yonhap News Agency reported. The soldiers were mobilised as construction workers, the agency said in a report from Peking late Friday. Quoting an unnamed North Korean source and frequent visitor to Pyongyang, Yonhap said the disaster occurred on March 25.

Shuttle lands at Kennedy Space Centre

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (R) — The shuttle Discovery landed safely in Florida Saturday after nine days in space studying Earth's diminishing ozone layer. Delayed a day by stormy weather, Discovery touched down with five astronauts aboard at 7:37 a.m. EDT (1137 GMT) at the Kennedy Space Centre. After 148 orbits and a voyage of 3.8 million miles, the winged spaceship returned to the base where it was launched on April 8 on the second of eight missions NASA plans to fly this year. "Discovery's crew returns with a bounty of new knowledge of the sun, our home planet and its fragile atmosphere," said Jeff Carr, mission commentator. Twin sonic booms announced Discovery's approach to the Atlantic coast spaceport minutes before the 103-tonne ship glided to a 215 mph (352 kph) touchdown with Marine Colonel Kenneth Cameron at the controls.

Patten returns to Hong Kong

HONG KONG (AFP) — Hong Kong Governor Chris Patten returned here Saturday after a visit to London saying he hoped upcoming Sino-British talks would be successful. Mr. Patten, whose visit coincided with the announcement of the resumption of talks, stilled by his controversial democratic reform proposals for the territory, added "I don't want to say anything that would make what is already a difficult job even more difficult for those who would be at the table." After London and Peking announced this week the resumption of talks in Peking next Thursday, China warned the British side not to say anything that might jeopardise the negotiations over the future of the British colony which reverts to Chinese rule in 1997. The renewed talks followed a period when China hurled abuse and insults at Mr. Patten over his reform package.

Amato may emerge as referendum winner

ROME (R) — Socialist Prime Minister Giuliano Amato, his reputation unblemished in the huge corruption scandal rocking Italian politics, could emerge a winner in the aftermath of this weekend's referendum on electoral reform. Opinion polls predict the referendum's proposal to scrap Italy's ponderous form of proportional representation will be a runaway success. But whether Mr. Amato will then be chosen as the man to lead an interim government to general elections is the subject of intense speculation, analysts say. Once almost written off as the leader of a discredited order, the shy but dogged premier has been enjoying a revival in popularity as Sunday's vote approaches. Never even remotely implicated in the huge bribery scandal which devastated his cabinet, Mr. Amato shone through the muck as a dogged champion of economic reform.

U.N. envoy leaves Haiti with nothing again

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (R) — U.N. special envoy Dante Caputo has left without an expected agreement to end Haiti's 18-month-long political crisis after top military leaders balked at the plan.

But Mr. Caputo said he remained confident that a settlement could still be reached to reinstate toppled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and reform Haiti's military. Mr. Aristide was ousted in a coup in September 1991.

"I believe it is necessary that all sides be more flexible, but I believe that with goodwill we will find a solution," Mr. Caputo told reporters in a brief statement at the airport before departing.

Mr. Caputo spent part of the day in negotiations with army chief General Raoul Cedras, trying to persuade top military leaders to step down in exchange for amnesty.

"We've made proposals for a final, definitive solution to the political crisis... unfortunately, we have not received a positive reply," he said.

Mr. Caputo said he would return to New York to consult with the U.N. secretary-general, and with officials in Washington.

He spent four days on the impoverished Caribbean island meeting with military leaders and representatives of Mr. Aristide.

Mr. Caputo refused to give any explanation for the last-minute hitch in the negotiations which had been expected to produce a final agreement before his departure.

But diplomats knowledgeable about the talks said that top Haitian military and business leaders had balked at the proposed plan.

Khmer Rouge leader returns to Cambodian jungle

PHNOM MALI, Cambodia (R) — The Khmer Rouge leadership has returned to the jungle.

Khieu Samphan, president of the Maoist guerrilla group, has taken up residence in the Khmer Rouge's jungle fastness since fleeing Phnom Penh, the Cambodian capital, Tuesday, saying he feared for his life.

"He is in the DK (Democratic Kampuchea, or Khmer Rouge) zone," Mak Ben, spokesman for the radical group, told reporters Saturday at Phnom Mali model village, in western Cambodia, just over the border from Thailand.

"We will never return to Phnom Penh," said Mak Ben, who holds one of the Khmer Rouge seats on Cambodia's all-faction reconciliation body, the Supreme National Council (SNC).

He met with reporters on the anniversary of the Khmer Rouge's victory over the U.S.-backed regime of General Lon Nol.

Brother number one, Pol Pot, and his forces took Phnom Penh on April 17, 1975, but immediately changed the date to "year zero," abolished money and cities and made education a capital crime.

Pol Pot, formally retired but believed by many to still be running the Khmer Rouge, lives in Thailand, according to Thai military sources.

His "killing fields" rule took the lives of a million Cambodians through execution, starvation, disease and forced labour, before

a Vietnamese invasion drove the Khmer Rouge from power in January 1979.

Thirteen years of civil war followed.

The Vietnamese aggressors, both military and civilian, who have been in Cambodia since their invasion, continue to run the country in every field," Mr. Mak Ben said.

This charge, denied by Hunu, U.N. peacekeepers and neutral foreign diplomats, is cited by the Khmer Rouge as the reason for their refusal to honour key parts of a peace agreement they and two other guerrilla groups signed with the Vietnamese-installed government in October 1991.

The Khmer Rouge have refused United Nations peacekeepers access to their zones, refused to surrender any of their arms, and are refusing to participate in a U.N. run national election set for May 23-27.

Mr. Mak Ben said the elections were fixed to give the Phnom Penh government 70 or 80 per cent of the vote.

He refused to comment directly on the violence that has been enveloping Cambodia in recent months.

He blamed killings throughout Cambodia on the presence of the Vietnamese including the massacres of scores of ethnic Vietnamese fishermen and women in March.

The U.N. peacekeeping operation has blamed the Khmer Rouge for killing the ethnic Vietnamese, and U.N. officials have said they are also responsible for

the deaths of six U.N. peacekeepers since March 28.

While Mr. Mak Ben said the Khmer Rouge would not return to the capital, he later modified this by saying their absence was temporary until the city could be made secure for them. He said, however, Cambodia had a "climate of permanent insecurity."

He said the Khmer Rouge would keep their seat on the SNC but would not attend meetings in Phnom Penh.

The Khmer Rouge would meet with the United Nations and the other factions "any place, anywhere there is security for a calm discussion," said Mr. Mak Ben, who was the group's spokesman in Phnom Penh.

Meanwhile, Cambodia's largest opposition party, FUNCINPEC, said Saturday that its campaign for next month's elections was being hampered by assassinations, harassment and intimidation.

FUNCINPEC, loyal to Prince Norodom Sihanouk, said two party members have been murdered this month and that voters were stopped from attending a rally in Takeo province Thursday.

The party charged in a statement that on April 7, the day the campaign officially began, a Phnom Penh government Cambodian People's Party (CPP) representative and an accomplice shot and killed the head of the FUNCINPEC office in southwestern Koh Kong province.

The week before, FUNCINPEC said, one of its active mem-

bers in eastern Kompong Cham province was shot dead by four government militiamen.

In addition, FUNCINPEC said government roadblocks prevented people from attending the rally in Takeo, and that local businessmen were pressured by government authorities not to rent the party loudspeakers.

"For a period of time during the rally, (government) representatives broadcast, as loud as possible, a violent speech by Prime Minister Hun Sen over loudspeakers located on a property adjacent to the meeting site in an attempt to drown out proceedings at the FUNCINPEC rally," the statement said.

FUNCINPEC was expecting 8,000 people at the rally, but U.N. officials said only about 4,000 turned up.

U.N. officials confirmed some of the FUNCINPEC assertions, but the assassinations could not be immediately verified.

However, the United Nations, attempting to hold an election on May 23-27, has officially said the campaign was off to a good start, with a U.N. spokesman saying Thursday that no cases of harassment or intimidation had been reported.

"It appears that thousands of Cambodians throughout the country are peacefully engaging in multi-party activities without violence or clashes," spokesman Eric Berman said.

About 200 meetings and political rallies have been held in various provinces since April 7, Mr. Berman said.